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HANDSOME VICTORY FOR MEN IN BLUE

Playing their 1st ODI since WC heartbreak, India beat South Africa by 8 wickets

SAI SUDHARSAN SHINES ON INDIA DEBUT

Ever since making a name for himself in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Premier League, B Sai Sudharsan has shown his class at every level. On Sunday, he continued the same on India debut, scoring a solid 55 from 43 balls. Along with Shreyas Iyer, he helped the team secure an eight-wicket victory against South Africa.

55* Sai Sudharsan's 55 n.o is the highest for an Indian batter on ODI debut in SA since Saba Karim's 55 in 1997

ARSHDEEP, AVESH RISE TO OCCASION

- Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan ran through South African top-order as the hosts were reduced to 58/7 in 13 overs
- The left-arm pacer took 5/37 while Avesh accounted for four wickets for 27 runs as they shared nine wickets between themselves. The hosts were eventually bundled out for 117 in 27.3 overs | P11

200 LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY (BY BALLS REMAINING) FOR INDIA AGAINST SA IN SA

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Police recover destroyed phones

Charges of evidence destruction added to FIR after recovery of phone parts from Raj

Parts of the burnt mobile phone recovered from Rajasthan on Sunday | ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi / Lucknow

DELHI Police on Sunday recovered fragments of the broken and burnt mobile phones used by the accused in the December 13 Parliament attack case from Nagaur in Rajasthan. Following this, the police added Section 201 of the IPC, which deals with destroying evidence of an offence, to the FIR against the accused.

Sources said sleuths of the Special Cell wing of the Delhi Police also brought the alleged mastermind Lalit Jha to Nagaur, where he stayed with the help of Mahesh Kumawat, who is also accused in the case. Jha showed the police the area where he had destroyed the mobile phones by crushing them and later setting them on fire.

According to police officials, Jha and Kumawat intentionally destroyed the mobile phones to hide technical evidence related to the case.

So far, police have arrested six persons — Jha, Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Shinde, Neelam Devi, and Mahesh Kumawat — for their alleged involvement in the Parliament security breach.

Police officials said they are perusing all the social media accounts of Jha after noticing some disturbing content in some of them. In a social media post in October, he had said: 'What India needs is a bomb' to fight 'tyranny, injustice and anarchy'.

Meanwhile, another team of Delhi Police sleuths reached Lucknow on Sunday to interrogate the relatives of Sagar Sharma. The police team also questioned the trader from whom Sharma is believed to have bought the special shoes to conceal the canisters. They are also checking if Sharma used the service of a cobbler to create the cavity in the shoes. The police had planned to bring Sharma to Lucknow but dropped the plan due to "law and order concerns", sources said.

BJP dragging Speaker to Parl breach issue: Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla wrote to all MPs informing them that he had constituted a high-powered committee to review all aspects of security in the Parliament complex, Congress MP Manickam Tagore said the security breach is the failure of Union home minister Amit Shah and that the BJP shouldn't drag the Speaker into the issue. Tagore is among the 14 MPs suspended last week by the Lok Sabha Speaker for allegedly disrupting House proceedings. Speaking to this newspaper, Tagore said INDIA alliance partners will stick to the demand of a statement from the home minister in both Houses of Parliament. "Parliament security breach is not the responsibility of the Speaker. Delhi police reports to Amit Shah and it is the failure of the intelligence agencies. The fact that UAPA charges have been slapped on those five people demonstrates that it's an extremely serious matter. Why is the Speaker taking the onus on him?" asked Tagore.

With the escalation of the political face-off between the government and the opposition parties, Birla had written to all MPs on Saturday assuring them he had set up a high-powered panel to conduct an in-depth probe into the breach and formulate a concrete action plan to prevent such incidents in the future. Birla also clarified that the suspension of 14 MPs was not linked to the security breach.

"The Speaker says we are not suspended on the issue of the security breach. Then what is it? If the speaker wants to get into the politics of the ruling establishment, it is very unfortunate. In the past also, home ministers and PMs have made statements in the House when such situations arose," Tagore said.

Tagore also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making his first remarks on the Parliament security breach during a media interview on Sunday. Modi said that the incident was very serious and that a detailed probe should be conducted.

"The PM and the HM will speak to TV channels. However, they will not come to Parliament and make a statement. They are denigrating and insulting Parliament," he said, adding that the INDIA alliance will discuss it at Monday's meeting.

Students cleaning a septic tank at Morarji Desai Residential School at Yeluvahalli. The incident was reported on December 1

Students clean school septic tank; principal, teacher held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kolar/Bengaluru

IN an inhuman act, students from seventh to ninth standards at Morarji Desai Residential School at Yeluvahalli in Kolar district were made to clean the septic tank on December 1. The incident came to light late on Saturday night after a photograph went viral.

School principal Bharathamma, teacher Muniyappa, hostel warden Manjunath and guest teacher Abhishek have been suspended after state Residential School Director Naveen Kumar and Joint Director of Social Welfare Department Srinivas visited the school. While Bharathamma and Muniyappa were arrested, the others are yet to be traced.

A case was registered against the four after Srinivas filed a complaint, said Kolar Superintendent of Police M Narayan. "I visited the school and spoke to the students. Deputy Superintendent of Police Mallesh has been deputed to conduct a detailed inquiry," he added.

As news spread, parents rushed to the school and expressed their displeasure at authorities. They said there is a lot of difference among teachers, and they would like to shift their wards to other schools.

Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah said that he has sought a detailed report on the incident and action will be taken based on it. Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa said strict action will be taken against the officials concerned, besides registering a criminal case. Senior officials have been sent to the school to investigate and report, he said. Home Minister G Parameshwara said a detailed investigation will be conducted.

It was just a few days ago that the social science teacher from the same school, Abhishek, had punished students for not preparing well for exams, and those photos too had gone viral.

Workers and local residents gather outside a manufacturing unit of Solar Industries at Bazargaon near Nagpur following a blast that killed nine workers | PTI

9 killed, 3 injured in blast at Nagpur explosives factory

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NINE people were killed and three others injured in a blast at an explosives manufacturing factory in Nagpur, Maharashtra on Sunday.

The incident happened in a cast booster unit of the plant operated by Solar Industries India Limited in the Bazaargaon area around 9 am. The police are yet to ascertain the cause of the blast and have sought the help of an expert, sources said.

The plant manufactures explosives used in the coal mining process. As per sources, the work of packaging the explosives was on when the blast occurred. Soon after the incident, a crowd of nearly 200 people, including local residents and relatives of those killed, blocked the entrance to the factory shouting slogans and demanding access to the premises so that they could see the bodies of their loved ones. The police soon dispersed them, but they later blocked the Amravati-Nagpur road outside the factory.

The Maharashtra government has announced compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the dead, the chief minister's office stated, adding that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has instructed authorities to provide timely and quality treatment to those injured. "The chief minister has expressed deep grief over the deaths in the explosion," the statement said.

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar alleged that over 5,000 people were working in unsafe conditions in the factory. "The probe should happen and the guilty should be punished," Wadettiwar added. He said the state government must give ₹50 lakh as compensation to the kin of those who had died.

> **A tragic incident occurred at 9 am in building number HR-CPCH-2 (Mixing, Melting and Casting) in which nine workers lost their lives**
>
> Ashish Srivastava, senior general manager, Solar Industries

JAISHANKAR GOES AFTER UNSC, COMPARES IT TO AN OLD CLUB

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"THE UN Security Council is like an old club where there are a set of members who don't want to let go of the grip. They want to keep control over the club, not very keen to admit more members, not too keen to have their practices questioned. It is in a way a human failing, but I think it's harming the world because on key issues confronting the world, the UN is getting less and less effective," said External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar here on Sunday while taking a dig at UNSC for denying India a permanent seat.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar speaks at a leadership summit in Bengaluru on Sunday

But he expressed confidence that India will get the permanent seat as history is on its side. Interacting with the delegates at a leadership summit of Rotary International (RI), The Rotary Institute, he said the world has over 200 countries that want reforms which the UN should have realised.

"The global sentiment today is that a large number of countries are for reform. When the UN was founded there were about 50 countries. Imagine a business that has grown four times yet you don't want to change the original promoter of the business. It's not fair. I am sure it will happen, we will keep at it. I do believe that history is on our side," he said.

On BRICS, Jaishankar hoped that it will be expanded with six more members when it meets next time. "The world cannot be run by seven countries which are from one part or a continent. BRICS in a way is a message of diversity and independence, a natural expression of culture, economics and politics of the world," he said. P4

NORMS VIOLATED

Students, minor used to frisk KPSC test candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

A controversy erupted after students were allegedly used for frisking of candidates during the examination for the post of Junior Assistant Group C in Karnataka State Audits and Accounts Department by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) at a centre in Mangaluru on Sunday.

The exam was conducted at the Government Women's College at Balmatta in Mangaluru on Sunday. However, some of the candidates appearing for the exam alleged that untrained students, including a minor, from colleges around the city were used for screening the candidates while entering the exam hall and accused KPSC of conducting the exam in an unprofessional manner.

In the viral videos, some of the students, including a minor, are seen screening the candidates using metal detectors. The KPSC has instructed that mobile jammers, biometric face detection and body cameras should be used at exam centres to prevent malpractice and use of electronic devices. Some of the candidates, however, alleged that KPSC did not make proper arrangements and failed to adhere to the guidelines while conducting the exam. The exam centre supervisor said KPSC has outsourced an agency to conduct the exam. "Those engaged in the screening process were not from our college, but were outsourced by that agency," she said.

Students, including a minor, frisking candidates appearing for the exam

BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal criticised KPSC officials and posted on X, saying it shows how prepared KPSC is to conduct the examination.

EXPRESS READ

Jumbo tramples farmer to death in Harohalli

Bengaluru: A farmer lost his life after an elephant attacked him while he was going to his silk farm on Sunday. The incident happened at Harohallidoddi in Harohalli hobli of Kanakapura taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru at 5.30 am. The victim has been identified as Thimmegowda, aged 63 | P4

Heavy rain pounds southern TN districts

Chennai: Heavy rain under the influence of a cyclonic circulation lashed southern Tamil Nadu on Sunday, inundating several areas in districts, including Kanniyakumari. On Sunday, heavy rain lashed Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi districts affected normalcy | P5

FIR lodged against JSW chairman in rape case

Mumbai: Police have filed an FIR against the chairman of JSW Group Sajjan Jindal on a complaint by a woman accusing him of raping her. The alleged assault happened in January 2022 in Mumbai, she said. Jindal denied the allegations, calling them false and baseless | P8

B'gavi stripping case: Govt hands over probe to CID

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

THE state government has ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to probe the incident of a woman stripped and assaulted in Belagavi on December 11.

The investigation officer, Additional Commissioner of Police Girish, will hand over the investigation files to the CID once officers arrive in Belagavi. CID DIG Sunil Kumar Meena will arrive in Belagavi shortly to start the investigation. The police team from Belagavi has collected all the information and evidence related and also listed out the action taken by the police so far in this case, police sources said.

France calls for lasting truce in Gaza

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WITH Israel showing no signs of ending its bombardment of Gaza anytime soon, France on Sunday pressed for an "immediate and durable" truce, with its top diplomat saying "too many civilians are being killed".

French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna was in Tel Aviv to hold talks with her Israeli counterpart Eli Cohen and convey France's growing concerns over the situation in Gaza.

She also sought an explanation from Israel for its bombing of a residential building in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, which killed a French foreign ministry staffer. "We demand that all light be shed by the Israeli authorities on the circumstances of this bombing, as quickly as possible," she was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera. Colonna's statement comes as international pressure is mounting on Israel over its continuing attacks that, as per Gaza's Hamas-controlled health ministry, have killed nearly 19,000 people. Last week, US President Joe Biden warned Israel it is starting to lose global support. Meanwhile, CNN reported the US is planning to mount additional pressure with its defence secretary Llyod Austin planning to visit Tel Aviv next week to push Israeli officials to "define milestones for its war". P9

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 18/12/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Shashti 6.16 pm
Nakshatra: Sathabhisha 4.42 am • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER | MIN 18°C | MAX 26°C | FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 6.35 am | Sunset 5.57 pm | Moonrise 11.12 am | Moonset 11.24 pm

WITH POTHOLES AND SINKHOLES BEING AN ACCEPTED PART OF BENGALURU'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, EXPERTS SUGGEST REASONS AND SOLUTIONS

THE HOLE TRUTH

MOHAMMED YACOOB

BIG PICTURE

DESPITE civic agencies spending crores of rupees on Bengaluru's infrastructure, sinkholes and potholes are common. While substandard work is to blame, ultimately it is the common citizens who, in several instances, lose their precious lives. Experts and urban planners, however, say the lack of sub-surface mapping and 'infra culture' has led to the city's infrastructure going haywire when it comes to road infrastructure.

Urban planner and architect Naresh Narasimhan said the reason behind potholes and sinkholes in Bengaluru is a lack of "sub-surface mapping". "We don't need just infrastructure, we need 'infra culture' and a drawing that is a sub-surface of road mapping even before taking up road works. We are taking a superficial approach and our road designs are very obsolete. As a result, there is leakage of water from drains and stagnation on roads which leads to potholes and sinkholes," said Narasimhan.

Geo environmentalist at Bengaluru University Dr D Paramesha Naik stated that though less common than potholes, sinkholes pose a more severe threat. He observed that factors like karst topography (formed by soluble bedrock and debris) in certain areas, excessive groundwater extraction and construction practices have led to cavities on roads.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Fix My Street app, the city has 3,598 potholes. From April to December 16, 5,515 potholes were reported, of which 959 have been fixed and 958 complaints were rejected as these were not related to potholes.

BBMP, which is the custodian of city roads, has attributed the potholes and bad stretches to construction activity due to the real estate boom, widespread digging by agencies like Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), optical fibre cable service providers and others.

ROAD NETWORK

Roads in Palike limits are maintained by the engineering department of BBMP, and are classified into three groups--'arterial roads', 'sub-arterial roads' and ward roads.

According to BS Prahalad, Engineer-In-Chief, BBMP, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike consists of 470 arterial/ sub-arterial roads, accounting for 1344.84km. Similarly, ward roads account for 12,528.98km. "Roads constructed or re-asphalted in the past three years are monitored within the Defect Liability Period (DLP) with the help of Road History registers, and in case there is damage like potholes and sinkholes, the contractors concerned will be asked to fix it," said Prahalad.

Agreeing with BBMP on potholes and sinkholes appearing in Bengaluru due to other civic agencies' work, BWSSB engineer-in-chief B Suresh said that at present, Cauvery stage V work is on and the board is tasked to complete the sewage network and water supply to 110 villages that were merged with BBMP wards. "We take permission from BBMP and do our work and try to restore the road to its original form, or pay the amount to BBMP itself to fix the road," said Suresh. A BWSSB official said an action plan for restoration of BWSSB road cut portions in 110 village limits of BBMP has been approved by the Karnataka government at a cost of Rs 100 crore.

Expressing the same, a senior Bescom official said the agency keeps receiving complaints of underground cable fault due to damage by other agencies, and hence takes up repair work and cuts the roads. "We take permission and once we fix the cable fault and damage, we cover the dug up area and add aggregates. We operate with our civil works team and restore BBMP roads," said the senior Bescom official.

To address the issue of potholes and sinkholes, BBMP has established its own hot mix plants to supply asphalt mix to fill potholes at Kannur village for continuous supply of hot asphalt mix for filling up potholes. This plant ensures the quality of the asphalt batch mix and its timely supply. Now BBMP has roped in four more contractors having bitumen hot mix plants to overcome the delay in filling up potholes. Work orders have already been issued and work is in progress, say Palike officials.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath in February stated that the civic body has spent Rs 119 crore between 2020 and 2022 for filling up potholes, and the Palike filled over 29,000 potholes that time. The Palike has now approved Rs 2.19 lakhs per kilometre for annual maintenance of roads only to address pothole issues.

FATAL CONSEQUENCES

With people dying while avoiding potholes and bad stretches, opposition parties have lashed out at the ruling government and BBMP. In 2022, six deaths were linked to potholes, following which a PIL was filed and BBMP officials were pulled up by the court over bad roads.

Recently, Aam Aadmi Party members held a protest near the sinkhole site in Ulsoor and demanded that the project executed by BBMP should be examined by IISc or any third party to check its quality. The members also stated that a Lokayukta complaint for Rs 15 crore will be filed is spent per kilometre on white-topping of roads.

Following incidents of potholes and sinkhole deaths and criticism, BBMP has also set up a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) wherein Detailed Project Reports (for work costing more than Rs 10cr) are placed before the committee for technical suggestions and guidance.

BBMP also engages third-party quality monitors for work less than Rs 1 crore. A detailed mechanism is worked out to ensure that responsibilities are given to assistant engineers and their names are included in the format. One engineer is designated to each ward who will survey the roads for potholes using the 'Fix My Street' application.

ROAD SHOW

Under 'Fix My Street' app, as on Dec 16, 2023, BBMP roads have **3,598** potholes

1344.84km of arterial and sub-arterial road length

12,528.98km collector streets

BBMP fixes potholes with hot bitumen, and during rainy season, uses a cold mix from its plants at Kannur village

Between 2020 and 2022, BBMP spent **Rs 119** crore and filled over **29,000** potholes

BBMP approved **Rs 2.19** lakh per kilometre for annual maintenance of roads to fix potholes

BWSSB, Bescom and optical fibre cable companies damage roads

Rs 100 crore approved by the government for restoration of BWSSB road cut portions in 110 village limits

SWD work on Kaggadaspura road causes traffic snarls, people suffer

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

WORK on rebuilding the Storm Water Drain (SWD) at Kaggadaspura Main Road in CV Raman Nagar, which began a fortnight ago, is causing multiple problems to localities. Alternate roads have not been provided for vehicle users for whom this road was the lifeline. A narrow walkway is provided for pedestrians to walk across the construction spot which is risky for all, including many school children who use it daily.

This road connects CV Raman Nagar with Old Madras Road, Old Airport Road and Baiyappanahalli Metro station among other areas. Residents have to take a detour now travelling an extra 4 kms, they said.

Sharing commuting woes with TNIE, Shachi Pathak, a resident of 4th Cross, said, "After a burst at the SWD here on November 30, BBMP began work on December 1.We understand infrastructure work needs to take place. However, without any alternate roads provided, all of us are suffering now. Most school kids of the DRDO Kendriya Vidyalaya use the narrow walkway near it and one school girl fell down too. It is really risky for anyone to walk like this road but they are forced to do it to avoid losing much time."

Stormwater drain work taken up on Kaggadaspura Main Road | EXPRESS

Vehicle users residing along this road and its numerous cross roads need to take a detour of over 4 kms via Malleshpalya or Vignesh Nagar to reach other areas.

Samik Ghosh, an IT professional and resident at Abhaiah Reddy Layout, whose daughter goes to her school in Halasuru said, "Kaggadaspura Main Road used to be the lifeline for all of us. My daughter's journey to school and return has gone up by at least 15 minutes daily now. I work from home usually but on one occasion when I went to my office at Bagmane Tech Park got me stuck at GM Palya Main Road. The whole road was jammed and it took me half an hour to reach instead of the regular 5 to 7 minutes."

BBMP definitely should speed up the pace of work here by deploying staff during the nights. "They only work during office hours and sometimes they are not seen working even during that period. The pace of work is extremely slow."

K-RIDE inks ₹4,500-crore loan agreement with KfW

ENS@ Bengaluru

INFRASTRUCTURE Development Minister MB Patil on Saturday announced that Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) and Germany's KfW Development Bank inked a loan agreement of Rs 4,500 crore and comprising a grant of approximately Rs 40 crore in New Delhi .

The loan will facilitate the invitation of Corridor 1 and 3, system tenders and will expedite the progress of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP). "Karnataka government is committed to facilitate sustainable and cost-effective mobility modes to commuters in and around the city," Patil said. BSRP has been sanctioned with a project completion cost of Rs 15,767 crore that involves a loan component of Rs 7,438 crore from multilateral and bilateral financial institutions.

Fans of Vishnuvardhan protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Vishnuvardhan's fans protest at Freedom Park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HUNDREDS of fans of late Kannada actor Vishnuvardhan staged a protest at Freedom Park on Sunday, demanding that the place where the actor was cremated should be taken over by the government and fans should be allowed to visit the place.

Vishnuvardhan, who passed away in December 2009, was cremated at Abhimaan Studio on the Uttarahalli-Kengeri Road, which was named 'Dr Vishnuvardhan Road' after his death. While a memorial is already developed in Mysuru, the actor's fans have been demanding that the parcel of land, where he was cremated, must be taken over by the government.

Demanding the same, hundreds of fans gathered at Freedom Park and the protest was supported by around 40 organisations including Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) (TA Narayanagowda faction), Dalit Sangharsha Samiti and Bengaluru Unit of Kannada Sahitya Parishat. Veerakaputra Shrinivas, who is leading the cause, told reporters that fans have been fighting for it for the last 14 years. "We had given a petition to all governments in these years. Three months ago, we submitted a request to DCM DK Shivakumar and Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi. As there was no progress, we decided to stage a protest. We have received support from over 40 organisations and we will decide the next course of action depending on the government's response. We will organise protests at the taluk level if the demand is not met," he said, stressing that fans are ready to bear the expenses of the land if the government can't.

EXPRESS READ

SWR wins cleanliness shield at national level

Bengaluru: The South Western Railway (SWR) Zone jointly won the shield with the Central Railway for best performance in the Environment and Cleanliness category across all zones of the Indian Railways. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented the shields for best performance in specific fields in the Zonal Railways on Friday in New Delhi during the 68th Railway Week celebrations. Sanjeev Kishore, General Manager of SWR received it on behalf of the zone. A total of 21 shields were awarded to Zonal Railways/Public Sector Undertakings.

K'taka Rajyotsava golden jubilee fete at Canara Bank

Bengaluru: The Golden Jubilee celebrations of Karnataka Rajyotsava was held at the Head Office of Canara Bank, Bengaluru. The MD & CEO of the Bank K Sathyanarayana Raju praised the culture of Kannadigas and highlighted Karnataka's and Bengaluru's contributions, emphasizing the importance of promoting Kannada language and culture. Addressing the gathering, Dr Aarthi VB spoke about the need to blend regional identity with Indian values and emphasized the significance of contributions to art and culture in preserving India's heritage.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

18TH December: My personal top sign today is Pisces, the representative of everything that's sensitive, emotional and deeply insightful. In other words, it encourages everyone who loves to peer into life's hidden recesses, probing into everything that is normally concealed from our gaze. Sounds intriguing, doesn't it?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Last month's personal ups and downs may still be having a profound effect, but you should remember that you're in a long-term cycle and must wait until next spring for the acclaim you so richly deserve. Avoid pointless confrontations with partners.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You can afford to congratulate yourself on recent achievements, even if you get the feeling that some of your successes have gone largely unrecognised, especially at work. You may charm others, but don't spin them a line or manipulate them into acting against their interests.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Everything still focuses on parts of your chart ruling love. Perhaps you already have an inkling that social and romantic affairs are about to improve. Your personal creativity should also soon take a leap forward, all the more so if you have acquired the necessary skills.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Today's news and choices presage next week's actions and events. You may now be forced to decide whether to pursue a current matter to its logical conclusion or let sleeping dogs lie. Remember that old saying - "if it isn't broken, don't try and fix it"!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The Moon directs your attention to home and family matters. The question of the moment seems to be commitment, but when feelings are so nebulous and difficult to define, the answers are difficult to find. Perhaps you should redouble your efforts to discover the truth?

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The key to a successful day is good communication. You are often forced to consider aspects of your life in a new light. Right now the question may be whether you have done enough to make yourself clear, or whether you have been responsible for misunderstandings.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Something very strange has been happening in your professional or public life. For one reason or another, you've had to return to the past for your information or inspiration, and you may now feel as if you've wasted your time. All this will change before the week is out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The very fact that the Moon is aligned with your sign may be accountable for your swings of mood, especially if you can't decide whether to go out or stay in. It is likely that you'll be much happier in a homely, secure environment than fighting for your ambitions at work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You can be surprisingly secretive at times, and this is one of them. There may be perfectly good reasons to keep your thoughts to yourself, and nobody else has any right to demand that you reveal all unless you are willing. Plus, a new responsibility might be heading your way at work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The time when Mercury forms a challenging relationship to your chart is often filled with confusion and inspiration in equal doses. In many ways this will be helpful if it motivates you to question whatever fundamental improvements are now necessary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Before long, probably sooner than you think, you'll have to choose where to put your energy. The answers to current questions cannot be found in the facts alone, but in what you believe in your heart to be right. All you have to do is convince others that you know what you're talking about.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
A whole cluster of planets is aligned with dreamy and imaginative regions of your chart. In the final analysis, it may be more important for your personal happiness to pursue your worldly ambitions rather than devoting your time to domestic tasks.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

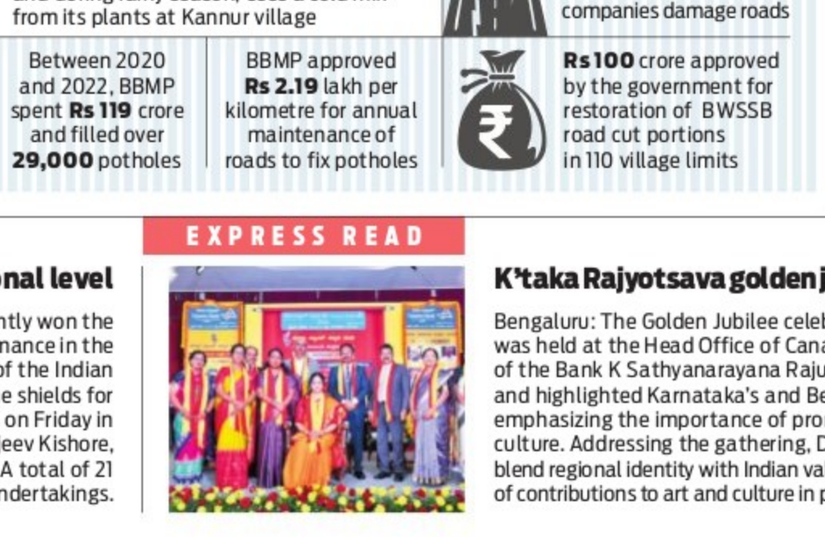
					4			
		9			5	7	6	2
				3	7			9
		3			8		1	
		6		4		5		
	4		9			3		
5			1	6				
6	1	8	4			9		
			7					

9	6	4	3	7	8	2	5	1
8	3	5	4	1	2	7	9	6
7	2	1	5	9	6	4	8	3
5	8	3	1	6	7	9	4	2
1	7	2	9	5	4	3	6	8
6	4	9	8	2	3	1	7	5
4	1	8	7	3	5	6	2	9
2	9	7	6	8	1	5	3	4
3	5	6	2	4	9	8	1	7

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Ban contents of data book (5)
8 Uncertain what to make of the stain? (8)
9 Glue a piece of wood (5)
10 Barely used part of the house (8)
11 New production of Tosca is on course (5)
12 In which familiar kinds of animals were transported (3)
16 Accept an invitation to act as a patron (4,2)
17 Alien apparently out of hearing (6)
18 Have a shot at judging? (3)
23 Feeling irritable? (5)
24 Satisfies all within (8)
25 Art is involved in making a musical instrument (5)
26 Don't leave out (8)
27 Girl sounding alarm (5)

DOWN
2 The area isn't developed well (8)
3 A quick check as soon as the matter is concluded (4-4)
4 Mend a broken rapier (6)
5 Lamp presumably portable (5)
6 Fabric that is light when worn (5)
7 The way a politician may indicate annoyance (5)
12 Inclined to make a point briefly (3)
13 A note with a certain ring to it? (3)
14 Sorry at having to study hackneyed composition (8)
15 A bouncer at a cocktail party (8)
19 What a baby may play with will make one nervous (6)
20 One grievance or a number (5)
21 Furtive Yanks seen around (5)
22 Has plans to make money (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Shortbread, 6 Hand, 10 Media, 11 Nefarious, 12 Breather, 13 Nadir, 15 Reredos, 17 Sleeves, 19 Insists, 21 Attache, 22 Incur, 24 Abortive, 27 Establish, 28 Terse, 29 Styx, 30 Shore leave.

Down: 1 Some, 2 Order arms, 3 Tiara, 4 Ranches, 5 Affirms, 7 Aloud, 8 Distressed, 9 Transept, 14 Artificers, 16 Describe, 18 Vice versa, 20 Slavish, 21 Another, 23 Catty, 25 Total, 26 Fete.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

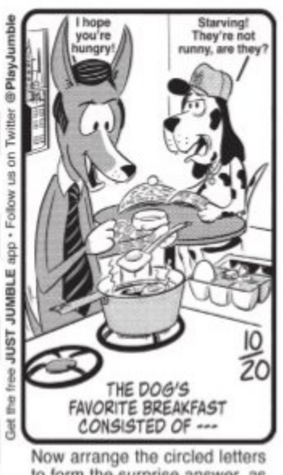
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

SOHLS

GDOAM

CEDTIE

GNUPEL


I hope you're hungry!
Starving! They're not runny, are they?
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
10 20
THE DOG'S FAVORITE BREAKFAST CONSISTED OF ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AGENT OLDER HEALTH TETHER
Answer: After wearing shoes that were too tight, it would take time for her — HEEL TO HEAL

In the wake of scanning centres found involved in sex determination and female foeticide cases, the health department has shut 15 scanning centres and have issued notices to 80 others for violating the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC and PNDT) in Mysuru district

WILL RESTRICTIONS RETURN? COVID TAC TO MEET TOMORROW

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE new JN.1 variant that is spreading in Kerala and Tamil Nadu is from the Omicron lineage and the sudden jump in the number of cases indicates that the new variant might be good at evading the immune systems or highly transmissible, a Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member has said.

The new 15-member TAC was reconstituted in September and is headed by Dr K Ravi, Professor and Head of the Department (Medicine), Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI).

The member said that at present we need not panic and people can follow the Covid-19 protocols that include wearing face masks and those with compromised immunity and comorbid conditions can avoid going to crowded places.

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has convened a meeting with the health officials and TAC on Tuesday. At present there is no cause for worry, but Karnataka may impose Covid-19 protocols ahead of New Year celebrations in large numbers, the TAC member added.

"The JN.1 variant, stemming from the Omicron lineage, exhibits minor mutations leading to sub-variants. To categorise a strain as a variant of concern, we evaluate three key parameters — the rate of transmission, its immune evasion, and its propensity to cause severe disease. While there's some indication of a slightly increased transmissibility and preliminary evidence of potential vaccine evasion, reassuringly, there's no significant rise in severe cases," said Dr John Paul M, Consultant in Tropical Medicine & Infectious Disease, Sparsh Hospital.

Similar to vaccination strategies against seasonal flu, adapting booster vaccines tailored to emerging variants becomes crucial. Community measures align with current practices: vigilance for symptoms, adherence to preventive measures like mask-wearing and distancing, and targeted protection for vulnerable populations. This proactive approach aims to curb transmission and mitigate potential challenges posed by evolving viral strains, ensuring a strategic and effective response to emerging health threats, he added.

Meanwhile, Kodagu District Minister N S Boseraju has told the district administration to take precautionary measures as the district shares a border with Kerala. Similarly, the Mysuru administration has also taken steps to ensure that there is no spread of the new variant in the villages of Karnataka sharing border with Kerala. They have intensified surveillance at the checkposts.

3 killed in separate road accidents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THREE persons were killed in separate accidents in the city.

A 21-year-old woman died in a hit-and-run after her two-wheeler was hit by a car in Chikkajala traffic police station limits. The police said the deceased, Banu B, went for trekking to Bettahalsoor with her friends at 4.20 am on Sunday. After the trek, Banu, who was associated with the sales department of a private company, was heading towards her office on Airport Road, when the accident occurred. The police are yet to identify the vehicle involved in the accident.

In another accident, an 87-year-old pedestrian was killed when a two-wheeler knocked him down while he was crossing the road. Ramakrishna Rao was crossing 16th main road in Jayanagar 4th block at 5.30 pm on Saturday when he was hit by the bike, the police said.

Rao, who sustained severe head injuries, died at a hospital. The Jayanagar traffic police have registered a case.

In yet another incident reported in Hulimavu traffic police station, a 51-year-old lorry driver died in a bid to avoid a parked garbage lorry. The police said the incident happened at around 10 pm on Saturday when the deceased, Chinnanan, a native of Tamil Nadu, was going from Bannerghatta toll gate towards Electronics City.

The collision occurred on NICE Road when Chinnanan was trying to avoid the garbage lorry that was parked on the right side of the road but in an attempt, Chinnanan lost control over vehicle following which the lorry toppled. He sustained grievous injuries and was rushed to St John's Hospital where he died during the treatment.

FOR A CAUSE

Volunteers take part in a vintage car and bike rally to create awareness on mental health, in front of Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

Plaint against Chetan for remark on Kempegowda

Bengaluru: A complaint has been filed against actor and activist Chetan Kumar Ahimsa, for his alleged hateful remarks against Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru. The police said the complaint was filed by Murthy, an advocate. The complaint was filed after the actor posted about Kempegowda on 'X'. In his post, Chetan Ahimsa wrote, 'Kempegowda - a marginal historical figure - has become a Karnataka icon due to dominance of caste lobbies.' The Sheshadripuram police have received the complaint. **ENS**

Flyer loses ₹1.5L from check-in bag, files plaint

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A social activist who flew to Bengaluru from Chennai by an IndiGo flight on Saturday evening has claimed that he was robbed of Rs 1.5 lakh cash from the bag he had checked-in. He has filed a complaint with the Bengaluru airport police station.

Dinesh Kalahalli claims that the money was in his bag that he had checked-in

"I had gone to Chennai on Friday to meet a lawyer in connection with filing a case at the NGT Tribunal regarding an environmental violation issue in Karnataka. I was returning to Bengaluru on Saturday," Dinesh Kalahalli, a farmer and resident of Kanakapura, said.

"On December 16, after completing the security screening process by 2.15 pm, we boarded from Gate 15 there. The flight (6E 847) was late by over an hour and departed only by 5 pm. The flight reached Bengaluru by 6 pm and I booked a taxi inside the airport. As the taxi left the airport, I had a splitting headache and opened my bag to get medicines. It was then I realised the money was missing. When I collected it, the plastic zip tie was missing," Kalahalli said.

He dashed to BIAL station in the same cab and filed a complaint. "I also work as a farmer and this is my personal cash. After the screening at Chennai airport, I did not check the bag. I opened it only inside the cab after reaching Bengaluru and found it missing," he added. There was no response from IndiGo at the time of going to the press.

Five of family drown in river near Sirsi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Sirsi

Five persons of a family drowned in the Shalmala river near Sirsi on Sunday afternoon. The deceased are Salim 44, Umar Siddiqui, 14, Nadia Sheikh, 22, Nabhil, 22 and Misbah, 21, all residents of Sirsi. A fter reaching the spot, they went to have a bath in the river and were washed away. The other family members who witnessed the incident, called the police. A rescue operation was launched and two bodies were recovered until late night.

According to police, one of the deceased Nadia was married to a man from Hassan two weeks ago and the family had arranged a party for the groom's family who came from Hassan. "As many as 30 of them came for the picnic. The five entered the river for a bath when the tragedy struck," said the police.

LIC HFL
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

15/1, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken PHYSICAL POSSESSION of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Sl. No	Loan No./ Name of Borrower/Co–Borrower	Property Address and Flat Area/ UDS of land	Date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Amount in Rs.)	EMD (10%) of Reserve Price	Bank details (EMD to be transferred to)
1	Loan No.:410200004375 Name: Jangid Mahendra Singh	All that piece & parcel of the Residential Flat No.G-03, 2BHK, BBMP Khatha No.32/67/2, on the GROUND FLOOR, with super Built Up area of 1125 Sq Feet, 270 Sq. Feet of undivided right, title and interest, along with One Reserved Car Parking Space in Basement Floor of the residential Apartment Building known as "NOVES SQUARE" constructed on the Land bearing Converted Land in Sy. No. 67 of Chokkanahalli Village, YelahankaHobli, Bangalore North Taluk. And bounded on the:- EAST By: Passage, West By: Stair Case and Duct, North By: Passage, South By: Open Space.	09.10.2017	Rs.49,00,000/-	Rs.4,90,500/-	Account Number: HFLESCBAIR04375 IFSC Code:UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
2	Loan No. 411800002258 Name: Mr. Sanjeev Singh Mrs. Anamika Singh	All that piece & parcel of the Flat bearing No.105, in first Floor, A-Block, BBMP Khatha No.262/105/08, apartment known as "KEMPS GREEN VIEW" measuring 846 Square Feet super built up area, with 305 Square Feet Undivided share, right, title and interest, containing Two Bedrooms, Dining Hall, Bathroom, Kitchen and Balcony, together with One covered Car Parking Space in the apartment in the Land bearing Site No. 1, 2 and 3, CMC Khatha No. 262, situated at Hoodi, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and the building is constructed with brick and cement walls, RCC Roofing, Honne Wood Doors and Windows, Mosaic Tiles flooring, with electricity, water and sanitary facility. EAST By: Property Belongs to H V Narayan Reddy, West By: Remaining portion of Survey No.63/1, North By: Block – B of Kemps City Developers, South By: Road.	09.10.2017	Rs.23,40,000/-	Rs.2,34,000/-	Account Number:-HFLESCBAKF02258 IFSC Code:- UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
3.	Loan No. 411900006510 Mrs. Prathyusha Mr. Harikrishna Ch	Il that piece & parcel of the residential Apartment/Flat bearing Unit No.003, containing Two bedrooms in the Ground floor of the apartment named "SRI VANDANA ORCHID", measuring 1275 Square Feet super built up area with one covered car parking space having undivided share of 301.70 Square feet in the land bearing present BBMP Katha No.2156/1/125/2A, 125/2B/142/1 & 153, situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South taluk, and bounded on: EAST By: Private Property, West By: Private Property, North By: 30 feet Road, South By: Private property and Road.	25.11.2016	Rs.47,10,000/-	Rs.4,71,000/-	Account Number:- HFLESCBABC06510 IFSC Code:- UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
4.	Loan No. 411500005057 Name: Mr. Salahuddin Sadique Mohammed Mrs. Sufia Saher	All that piece & parcel of the residential Property bearing Flat No.302, Third Floor, in Block-B, in the block name known as "KEVIN ASIRVATHAM" block in the multistoried residential building known as "MOUNIKA ESPANICA" measuring about 1390 Square Feet super built up area, having undivided share of 310 square feet with one covered car parking space in the land bearing converted Sy.No.65/2,now assigned New BBMP Katha No.40/1/Sy.No.65/2, situated at HORAMAVU AGARA VILLAGE, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on: EAST By: Sy.No.65/3, Horamavu Agara Village & Private Property; West By: Passage thereafter "MOUNIKA ESPANICA" Apartment block 'A' in the block name known as "LEPAKSHI" block, constructed on remaining portion of same Sy.No.65/2, measuring 13 Guntas, thereafter Sy.No.65/1 belongs to Mr.Yella Reddy; North By: Remaining portion of same Sy.No.65/2; and South By: Road formed in Sy.No.65/8.	07.12.2016	Rs.57,00,000/-	Rs.5,70,000/-	Account Number:- HFLESCBAWF05057 IFSC Code:-UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
5.	Loan No.410100006700 Name: Rajeshwari J N	All that piece and parcel of the Residential apartment No.304, in third floor of the "COMFORT DYNASTY" constructed on the Property bearing Present Corporation No.1088/1075/968/86/1, (formerly House list No.388, (Old Sy No. 86-1)) In Katha No.590 and property bearing House List No.388, in Khatha No.590 and Site No.2), Situated at Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Now Under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, having a super built up area of 835 Sq. feet, consisting of One Bedroom with balcony, Two Toilets, Living, Kitchen with Utility, equipped with one covered Car Parking, Vitrified tiles flooring, Sanitary, Electrical wiring and other facilities, with 306 Sq. feet of undivided share of interest in Schedule A property and bounded on the:- EAST By: Flat No.302, West By: Flat No.306, North By: Corridor and flat No. 303, South By: Private Property	03.10.2017	Rs.37,05,000/-	Rs.3,70,500/-	Account Number: HFLESCBABN06700 IFSC Code: UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
6.	Loan No. 410700000685 Name: Chandranath Banerjee	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Flat No D-3, in third floor, in Block I' measuring about 1155 Sq.feet in the multistoried residential building known as "12 SQUARE" and undivided share of 367.55 Sq.feet in the land having BBMP Katha No.330, Sy No.2i2B, situated at Sonnathannanahalli @ Thambuchetty Palya Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Banagalore East Taluk, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on:East By :Lourdamma and Jocob's property (Sy.No.2/2a); WestBy : Road an Private Property (remaining portion of Sy.No.2/2B);North By : Road and Property of Rajappa and Lourdappa (Sy.No.2/1); South By : Road and Private Property (remaining portion of Sy.No.2/2B) And 367.55 Sq.feet undivided right.	03.09.2015	Rs.48,00,000/-	Rs.4,80,000/-	Account Number:- HFLESCBAVY00685 IFSC Code:- UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
7.	Loan No.:-16069000100 Name:- Mr. Jegadeesan Devaraji Mrs. Jai Priya	All that piece & parcel of the residential Property bearing Flat No.308 (T-08), in the THIRD floor of the apartment named "GARUDADRI ELITE", measuring 1385 Square Feet super built up area, one car parking space at basement, having undivided share of 550 Square feet in the land bearing Sy.No.33/1, situated at KUDLU VILLAGE, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, within the limits of B.B.M.P. Bangalore, and bounded on: EAST By: Property belongs to Sri Samulla Thammaiah, West By: Property in Sy. No.33/1 belongs to Sri. Annaiah Reddy, North By: Road, South By: Property belongs to Sri. Narasimha Reddy.	11.01.2016	Rs.39,00,000/-	Rs.3,90,000/-	Account Number:- HFLESCBAWF00100 IFSC Code:- UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub
8.	Loan No.:411900003463 Name: Smt. Sudha Podila, W/o :- Vitthal Venkatasatya Podila Smt. P. Rama Lakshmi	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :All that piece and parcel of the Properties bearing Nos 20& 30(BBMP Khatha No. 917/873/29/30) and Nos 31 & 32 (BBMP Khatha No. 919/875/31,32) now bearing BBMP amalgamated Khatha No. 917/873/29/30/31/32, formed out of converted land Sy. No. 6/3 (converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide order No. B.DIS/ALN/SR(S) 305/91-92 DATED 16-6-1992 ISSUED BY THE SPECIAL Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), situated at Kasavanahalli Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Bangalore South Taluk), measuring East toWest; 85 feet and North to South : 170 feet, in all measuring 14450 square feet and bounded on the : East By : Properties bearing Nos. 23/24 & 25/26,West By : Road North By: Property bearing No. 28, South By: Private Property SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY :(Property hereby conveyed): 430 square feet of undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule "a" Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY (Apartment hereby conveyed) : Residential Apartment bearing No. 303, situated in the Third Floor, MEASURING 1350 square feet OF Super Built Up Area, containing 2 bed rooms, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc in the residential apartment building known as "SIRI KUMUDAM", constructed on the Schedule "A" Property, together with one covered car parking space numbered as 303. The apartment has RCC roof structure, the walls are of solid hollow blocks, vitrified tile flooring, one side teak wood main door and other doors commercial ply flush doors with aluminum window frames. It has electricity, water and sanitary connection and all other common service.	20.07.2022	Rs.51,64,000	Rs.5,16,400	Account Number:- HFLESCBABC03463 IFSC Code:- UTIB0CCH274 Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub

E-AUCTION Date	03-JANUARY-2024
Last date of submission of e-Bid form	02- JANUARY-2024

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites Online mode to purchase the said properties on "**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"**.

THE TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. E-Auction is being held on **'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis'**, and will be conducted **"Online".**
2. The intending bidders are advised to visit **https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/** for the details of the properties in the website and for taking part in the bid is there after redirected to the **E-Auction service provider -- www.auctionbazaar.com** and proceed further.
3. The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, immediately on acceptance of offer by the Authorized officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder.
4. **Bidding increment fixed for 10,000/- increment per BID.**
5. Bidders are bound by the principle of "caveat emptor" (Buyer Beware) and advised to conduct their own due diligence to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labour Dues, electricity and maintenance dues etc., of the firm or Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, taxes, or any other duties ,if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties other than the sale price.
6. The L.I.C Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the TENDER SALE / AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice.

Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

List of board, corpn chiefs ready, Delhi to take final call

Names of 39 Cong leaders finalised for posts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar called upon AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence here on Sunday and finalised the names of leaders who will be appointed as chairpersons to various boards and corporations.

As many as 39 leaders, including senior MLAs, MLCs and former MLAs figure in the list, according to sources. Some MLAs who were not interested to be included were omitted from the list.

Both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are bound for New Delhi on Monday for two days where AICC General Secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal is likely to take a final call on the appointments.

Shivakumar had also called upon AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala and discussed the nominations as the latter had also promised the posts to certain leaders in the run-up to the May 10 Assembly polls, sources said.

"We have sent the list of appointments to corporations and boards to the high command and we need to get approval for it. So the state leaders are going to Delhi," Shivakumar told reporters after calling on Kharge.

"Delhi leaders have not called us. We are going there ourselves. The AICC president has given directions regarding the implementation of our guarantee schemes, appointment of taluk- and district-level office-bearers. We will instruct the legislators to submit a proposal to form a committee at the taluk level in a month," he said.

During his Delhi visit, Shivakumar is also scheduled to meet certain Union ministers in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi cabinet.

When asked about Karnataka Rakshana Vedike leader Narayana Gowda's meeting him, Shivakumar clarified that it was regarding the police filing an FIR against him. "Narayana Gowda is a fighter who was campaigning for nameplates to be put up in all business establishments in Karnataka since there is an order in this regard," Shivakumar said.

"Someone has complained against him. I have spoken to the police commissioner that false cases should not be filed against him," he said adding that Narayana Gowda doesn't want to be in politics.

CM, DCM TO VISIT DELHI TODAY

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar will pay an official visit to the national capital on Monday where they are likely to meet Union ministers and discuss various issues including certain development works concerning the state. Shivakumar will leave earlier in the day and Siddaramaiah later in the evening separately. They will also meet the Congress high command leaders. **ENS**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah interacts with students during the inauguration of a Balamandir building in Gadag on Sunday

'NOT RIGHT TO SAY CASTE CENSUS UNSCIENTIFIC'

Talking about the Kantaraju caste census report, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said since the report has not been submitted, it cannot be accepted. The question will arise only after the submission of the report. The Permanent Backward Classes Commission has not submitted its report. Some people are already commenting that the report is not scientific which is based on speculation without knowing the contents of the report. Let the report be submitted, he said. Responding to Shri Shaila Jagadguru Channasiddarama Swamiji saying that the report should be released after two years, the CM said since they do not know about the report, it is not right to say that it is not scientific . **ENS**

INDIA NOT ONLY FOR HINDUS: SIDDU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Gadag

TAKING strong exception to the statement by the Pejawar mutt seer that India should become a Hindu nation if it has to survive, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said only Hindus do not live in this country.

He told reporters here on Sunday that this is the battle cry of the BJP. "The Jana Sangh wanted India to become a Hindu nation when it was formed in 1950. Our's is a diverse country where not only Hindus live, but Christians, Muslims, Jains and Buddhists too. Our country is a plural society. It is not possible to make a nation only for Hindus. This is the ideology of the BJP. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was established by K B Hedgewar in 1925. Even BJP people do not know this," he said.

Siddaramaiah said the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Bajrang Dal, BJP Yuva Morcha and Sangh Parivar are "factories of falsehood".

Responding to a question from the media that students are facing problems due to the Congress' Shakti Scheme, the CM said the ABVP is the BJP's student organisation and their main job is spreading lies.

He said if any cases of corruption are found in the state, the government will not be a mute spectator. An investigation will be conducted and action will be taken against the culprits.

Responding to many buses being under repair in the KSRTC, drivers not being deputed for duty and officials seeking bribes from them for this, the CM said, "We are already investigating the previous government's 40% corruption case and action will be taken against the guilty." He also said investigation against officials who demand bribes to depute drivers for duty will be conducted.

Man hoodwinks HC, KIADB, claims relief for acquired land

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

AN imposter has managed to hoodwink the Karnataka High Court on four separate occasions and even got the judges to impose costs and make critical remarks against Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). The high court, on being informed about the imposter, has taken cognizance and issued a notice to the imposter.

It all started with KIADB acquiring an eight-acre parcel of land, whose real owner is Harendranath Singh and the imposter is Hari Singh. Harendranath Singh (88) is a dairy scientist who has been running pillar to post after having made multiple representations to KIADB. He is the owner of eight acres of agricultural land in Singahalli village, Jala hobli, Devanahalli taluk.

In July 2008, KIADB acquired the land for various developmental works, and curiously, the octogenarian never received any statutory notice of such acquisition proceedings.

He was informed by a well-wisher that an impostor with a similar name had filed claims, seeking compensation for the acquired land. In July 2022, the real Harendranath Singh wrote to KIADB, requesting that disbursement of compensation in favour of the impostor be halted, until the issue of his rights was adjudicated. He also sought personal hearing, and offered to put up for verification all the property documents in his possession.

Harendranath Singh submitted all important documents for scrutiny, then filed an FIR before Visveshwarapuram police station. Police took up investigation into the actions of people named in the FIR, and during the course of investigation, imposter Hari Singh confessed to forgery and impersonation, in his statement recorded under Section 164 CrPC. VV Puram police filed a chargesheet against the impersonator, Hari Singh. He had maintained that he was Harendranath Singh. Upon verification, it was found otherwise.

It has come to light that the impostor managed to cheat court on various occasions and had filed a writ petition before the high court, whereby the court had directed KIADB to refer to the KIADB Act in the civil court and deposit the amount awarded as compensation.

This was dismissed by the Karnataka High Court, upholding the order of the single judge of the court. The impostor filed another writ petition before the High Court, which disposed of it.

Hari Singh also filed a contempt petition, following which KIADB filed a compliance affidavit reporting that the compensation amount was deposited in civil court, and since it was done belatedly, the HC while disposing of the petition, imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on KIADB.

The impostor again approached the HC and obtained an order wherein the court set aside the general award and urged the real petitioner to seek relief. The agricultural land has now become the aerospace park.

Irrigation Minister MB Patil said he is taking action against touts in KIADB, and the officers were spoken to and directed to follow court orders, to ensure justice to the octogenarian.

I am taking action against touts in KIADB, and the officers have been spoken to and directed to follow court orders, to ensure justice to the octogenarian

MB Patil, Irrigation Minister

'Data piracy national security challenge'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON China, he said India would certainly like its relationship with China to be better than what it is today. "But if things have taken a turn for the more difficult in the last three years, it's not because of us. It is because they have chosen not to observe the agreements on the border. But again, diplomacy is, however difficult your neighbours, however challenging they are, you never give up...," External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said.

There are always some differences between neighbours, but Pakistan is an "exceptional one", he added.

On the India-Canada diplomatic row over the killing of Indian-origin Canadian citizen Nijjar, who was a Sikh separatist, in British Columbia and Canadian PM Justin Trudeu accusing India of its involvement, Jaishankar reiterated that Canada did not provide "specific inputs" on the allegations. "Americans too brought up some issues and they told us some specific things," he asserted.

He said data piracy is a national security challenge in the era of Artificial Intelligence for the next 25 years. "Your data in some way go to the larger global matrix resulting in somebody else's business. You need to be careful where it is going. We want to ensure security and privacy, besides ensuring delivering digitally enabled benefits and making business easier. How to have trusted and transparent digital partners is one of the key challenges not just economic, technology challenges, it is actually a national security challenge," he added.

DIGITAL VISION

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi with MP P C Mohan and others during a programme to highlight the Centre's developmental works under the 'Our Vision is a Developed India', in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

GS Umapathy is Prantha Sanghachalak of RSS Karnataka Southern region

Bengaluru: Sixty-six-year-old **G S Umapathy** of Adanur, a small village in Holalkere of Chitradurga district, has been appointed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Prantha Sanghchalak of Karnataka Southern region. Umapathy completed his Bachelor of Engineering in Davangere and Master's in Engineering from KREC in Mangaluru. He then joined the PWD and retired as superintending engineer six years ago. Since his student days, he has been volunteering for the RSS and served the organisation in various capacities. He also served as the Karyavah of Ballari district, Vyavastha Pramukh and Sanghachalak of Davanagere district and Divisional Sanghachalak of Shivamogga division. The RSS also appointed Milind Gokhale as Sanghachalak of Bengaluru and Dr Milind Gokhale as Sanghachalak of Mangaluru division. Narayan Shenoy will be in charge. **ENS**

Have any dignity? delete 'doctored' video, CM tells BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday took a dig at the BJP for uploading a "doctored" video of him over waiver of farm loans. "Remember what the then Chief Minister Yeddyurappa replied to MLC V Ugrappa who demanded loan waiver in the House in 2009. He (BSY) said that have we installed a note printing machine to waive farmers' loans? Didn't he say that? Now you have cut the video as much as you want to make it wrong that I told this in the assembly and you are enjoying yourself (sic)," he posted on X uploading the original video.

In the 'original' video, Siddaramaiah taunted Yediyurappa when the latter allegedly stated that his BJP government had no machine to print the currency notes to waive the farm loans.

"Respected former MLA CT Ravi, it is because of such cheap pranks that resulted in you being at home and your party in opposition today. Your party was in the predicament of having to scramble to elect an opposition leader. But you don't seem to understand (sic)," he posted.

The people of the state are not stupid enough to believe the twisted videos you have shared. I am sharing the entire video here for your attention

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

"But it is surprising to see that Ashwath Narayan also shared a similar video. The MLAs were supposed to sit in the House and participate in the discussion on development works, but all their attention seems to be on the Leader of the Opposition's chair. The people of the state are not stupid enough to believe the twisted videos you have shared. I am sharing the entire video here for your attention. BJP leaders, if you have the least concern for your dignity, I request you to delete the video you have shared and apologise publicly," he said.

STRIPPING CASE

Govt to provide security to Belagavi couple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HOME Minister G Parameshwar said the government will provide police protection to the young couple who had fled Belagavi recently. "The boy and girl had fled the taluk and approached the Belagavi police commissioner seeking security," he told reporters here on Sunday.

Following the elopement of the couple, the boy's mother was assaulted and paraded naked by a group of people. The home minister has promised providing security and is holding discussions on the situation.

"Such incidents should not have happened. It is unfortunate. Opposition parties should not blame the government. The state government has taken this incident seriously. It (stripping and assault) happened late at night and some villagers alerted the police helpline. The police reached the village immediately and rescued the victim. The victim herself admitted that if police had not come on time, things would have been worse," he said.

Soon after learning about the incident, Parameshwara visited the hospital and spoke to the victim. The state government has also announced a parcel of land and Rs 5 lakh compensation for the vicitm and will bear her medical treatment costs. "Inspite of doing all these, it is not correct to blame the government. The National Women Commission and ST Commission can help the victim, we are ready to take their suggestions. We should not be blamed without any reason," he added.

Women, children not safe in K'taka, says BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE BJP on Sunday hit out at the State Government over the Kolar residential school manual scavenging incident. The party said that after the Congress came to power in Karnataka in May, the state has become unsafe for women and children.

Taking to 'X', Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra said that the incident of children involved in manual scavenging at a government residential school in Kolar district shows how unsafe the children are under the present government. Calling it an alarming development, the BJP leader said that people belonging to the Scheduled Castes are being subjected to exploitation.

Calling it a heinous crime, Vijayendra demanded strict action against the culprits. He also said Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa should be held morally responsible.

While former CM Basavaraj Bommai expressed concern over recent female foeticide cases in the state.

Wild jumbo tramples 63-year-old farmer to death near Kanakapura

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 63-year-old farmer lost his life after a wild elephant attacked him while he was going to his silk farm on Sunday. The incident happened in Harohallidoddi village at Harohalli hobli of Kanakapura taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru at 5.30 am.

The police said the deceased has been identified as Thimmegowda, who had been associated with sericulture farming. He was trampled by an elephant while he was going towards Harohallidoddi to water his farm in the early hours of Sunday.

The elephant first attacked Thimmegowda with his head following which he fell on the ground and then stepped on his chest moments after which the farmer collapsed. Meanwhile, the Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Lingaraju and other forest officials visited the spot.

Following the incident, the villagers gathered at the spot in large numbers and expressed their anger against the forest department. They also said that they live in fear as elephants are often seen around the area and blamed the department for lack of safety measures in place to control the elephants from entering the area.

Meanwhile, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar instructed the forest authorities to provide compensation for Thimmegowda's family and also instructed the forest department to take appropriate action to control the elephants.

Given an increase in the number of child pilgrims at the Sabarimala temple, the Travancore Devaswom Board has opened a special gate near the Sreekovil to ensure smooth darshan for children. To avoid the misuse of the system, the TDB has deployed guards and police in the area

Heavy rain lashes southern TN districts, normal life hit

Tirunelveli dist sees 25cm rainfall in 10 hours; Thamirabarani in spate

THINAKARAN RAJAMANI
@Tirunelveli/Tenkasi

SCHOOLS and colleges in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts declared a holiday on Monday after heavy rain lashed the areas on Sunday, resulting in inundation. Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi, and Kanniyakumari are among the several southern districts in the state that were alerted of extremely heavy rainfall.

According to a report from the Tirunelveli disaster management department, the Naalumukku of Manjolai Hills recorded 19cm rainfall as of 8.30 am on Sunday. The rain intensified as the day advanced, with the district recording an average rainfall of 25 cm between 8.30 am and 6.30 pm. The areas that received heavy rains include Manjolai (35cm), Kakkachi (34cm), Oothu (33cm), Naalumukku (32cm), Moolaikaraipatti (33cm), Palayamkottai (27cm), Nambiyar Dam (28cm), Cheranmahadevi (26cm), Nanguneri (24cm), Papanasam (23cm), Ambasamudram (23cm), and Radhapuram (21cm).

Papanasam and Manimuthar dams in Tirunelveli district reached 90 percent and 62 percent of their respective capacities on Sunday morning, triggered by flash floods in the catchment areas. The district administration warned people residing near Thamirabarani River to keep away from the water body. "Due to the increased inflow, water release from the river will be gradually increased to 35,000 cusecs," said a statement from the local body. They also circulated the district disaster management control room number - 1077 and the state control room number - 1070.

Tirunelveli Collector KP Karthikeyan and Corporation Commissioner Thakare Shubham Dnyandeorao arranged for relief shelters in the district.

A rescue team saves people from submerged areas in Nagercoil on Sunday | EXPRESS

Intense rainfall to continue till Tuesday

Thoothukudi: The cyclonic circulation in the lower tropospheric levels over equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal off south Sri Lanka coast has now moved over Comorin sea area and its neighbourhood extending up to mid tropospheric levels. The IMD has sounded red alerts in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanniyakumari districts on Monday. According to the IMD bulletin, light to moderate rainfall is likely at many places over Tamil Nadu for two days, on Dec 17 and 18. Very heavy rain is likely at one or two isolated places in Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi districts. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea until Tuesday (Dec 19).

Strong laws needed to ensure pay parity: CJI

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

THE legal landscape must evolve, weaving a tapestry that accommodates differences, eradicates biases, and ensures substantive equality, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud said here on Sunday.

He was delivering the inaugural Justice ES Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial lecture, organised by the National Law School of India University (NLSIU). He spoke on the Constitutional imperatives of the state, navigating discrimination in public and private spaces.

The CJI spoke extensively about the need for gender equality, eradicating discrimination in public and private spaces and the need for robust laws that can overcome these societal limitations. He quoted a judiciary report from 2023 which showed that only 30.4% of district court complexes have separate washrooms for persons with disabilities and other infrastructural support, and less than 30% have accessibility to wheelchairs. "Rather than sharpening their arguments and submissions, the lawyer or litigant is forced to account for parking arrangements and spot washroom facilities inside the court complexes," emphasised the CJI.

Commending Karnataka in its pursuit of disabled-friendly spaces, he added that the judiciary in the state is among the highest number of employers of persons with disability, particularly in the staff.

The CJI also touched upon gender pay parity and accepting the reality that many face discrimination in employment based on their sexuality. "This is not a hypothetical scenario. It is a harsh reality faced by many individuals," he said. It is not uncommon to hear that when faced with the financial choice between the education of a male child and a female child, the family will choose in favour of the male child, he explained.

Not just private spaces, but despite women's contributions to all spheres CJI said, "When a private home is a sight of employment for a house help, does the law protect the economic and personal rights, as much as it does of a corporate office employee?" He also delved into how homemakers are not remunerated for their services.

Explaining how the rule of law for public and private spaces differs, the CJI said that if the hierarchy persists in the private space and the law looks in the other way in the name of the sanctity of the household, we would be failing in the promise of equal protection of the law and qualifying it with a caveat based on the location of wrongdoing. "This will be a diluted understanding of what privacy entails. It is not a cloak for infringement of rights," he said. He added that technology had ended spatial constraints and the oppressed and oppressor must be identified, regardless of the place.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud at the Justice ES Venkataramiah Centennial Memorial Lecture in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

'Strike balance between welfare, development'

HYDERABAD: Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan met Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday, and reportedly advised Revanth to strike a balance between welfare and development. He said the implementation of welfare schemes should not have any negative impact on the spending for development. Rajan's meeting with Revanth assumed significance as the government has decided to release a white paper on state finances. The state government is of the view that its greatest challenge is to improve the financial situation of the state. He also discussed the present economic condition of the state and new strategies for economic development.

Rishab Shetty to adopt his alma mater in Udupi dist

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

KANTARA fame Rishab Shetty has decided to adopt Government Higher Primary School, Keradi, in Byndoor taluk of Udupi district as he did his primary education in this school three decades ago.

At the SDMC meeting held on Sunday, Rishab Shetty announced the decision of adopting the school for its overall development from levelling the playground, building a compound wall, repainting the school building to assist the children by buying a school van and deputing additional teachers. Rishab Shetty recalled that there were 400 children in this school three decades ago when he was studying, while there are 77 now.

Sources said that Rishab has estimated the cost of redevelopment to be at Rs 1 crore, but he is ready to spend even more if the situation demands.

Actor Rishab through his movie — 'Sa.Hi.Pra.Shaale, Kasaragodu' — in 2018, had aptly presented how a government Kannada medium school faced the threat of extinction while lives of children there were brought to a halt by greedy government officials. Officials from the Education Department, Udupi, told TNIE that the MoU in this regard will be signed by the actor and the government department soon. "Rishab wants to revive the academic ambience by getting additional teachers, introducing spoken English class and more," the official added.

Actor Rishab Shetty during the SDMC meeting of Government Higher Primary School, Keradi in Udupi district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Chennai oil spill: Clean-up far from over

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA
@Chennai

THE CPCL and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board missed the deadline set for Sunday, by the southern bench of the NGT to complete the oil spill clean-up, as tonnes of thick waste oil continue to flow in Ennore water bodies. The NGT is scheduled to hear the case on Monday.

TNIE caught workers in the act of attempting to dump bags of the toxic oil waste in the sensitive mangrove vegetation. Already, a large patch of mangroves in Kosasthaliyar river in Sadayankuppam and in Buckingham Canal are loaded with oil.

Techie takes up part-time job, loses Rs 95L

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN an attempt to earn more from a part-time job while already working at an IT firm, a 30-year-old man lost Rs 95 lakh to online fraudsters.

Tushar Kumar (name changed) was lured into the scheme by conmen who assured him that he would earn double the amount he invested if a task was simple, and the money would increase four times if he signed up for a complex task.

They lured Kumar by crediting his money in a fake 'digital wallet' that was created as a part of a Telegram group. Kumar constantly received messages from other people within the group who assured him that they were getting paid well by performing tasks, and believing it to be genuine, Kumar signed up for a task after which he lost his savings of Rs 95 lakh in 15 days.

After working for almost 12 hours each day at an IT company in Bellandur, Kumar dedicated his remaining time to the part-time job that involved completing basic tasks, including identifying objects and simple mathematical calculations. With an initial earning of Rs 500 for a task that involved identifying if an object was a phone or a television, Kumar was lured into the fake scheme. He believed his money would double if he signed up for an easy task, and the amount would be quadrupled if he completed a complex task. Money was credited into his digital Telegram wallet on a daily basis, after the completion of each task.

Moreover, Kumar was asked to continue till the last task, which involved an investment of over Rs 1 crore, as it would get him a huge sum of money. Throughout the fraudulent activity, the conmen asked Kumar to transfer money into multiple accounts which was diverted into several other accounts. Kumar, who was hoping to become a millionaire by investing in a baseless scheme, ended up losing his hard-earned savings of Rs 95 lakh.

CK Baba, DCP (Southeast division) said, "The scheme where literate people are made to believe they would get wealthier by performing part-time tasks, has resulted in at least five cases being registered each day. While citizens possess the right to utilize their money as they choose, it's imperative to scrutinize the legitimacy of investment platforms. Every day, hardworking individuals, particularly literate ones with existing jobs, fall victim to schemes seemingly designed and programmed to enhance wealth, but ultimately they are traps that deplete their hard-earned savings."

South-East CEN police registered a case.

IN THE COURT OF THE XLII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE

OS. No. 4022/2020 (CCH-43)

Between : Smt. Hema Latha .L, Aged 44 years, D/o. C. Lazar, W/o. Marian George, At Domahalli Village, K.R. Pete Nagara Taluka, Mysuru - 571602. ...Plaintiff

And : Sri C. Lazar & Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 5 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To, **Defendant No.5 : SRI. ABRAHAM ISSAC,** S/o Late Abraham, Aged about 91 years, Residing at No. 226, 5th B Main Road, HBR 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560043.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff above named have filed the above suit filed for Partition against Defendant No.5 in O.S NO.4022/2020 before this Hon'ble Court and the above named are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through the pleader **on the 16.01.2024 at 11.00 AM** to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard ex-parte.

SCHEDULE C PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal New No. 1, 2nd Cross Road, PNS Layout, Subbaiahnapalya, Bangalore, within the limits of BBMP, PID No. 88-172-1, old Site No.7, HL Khata No. 728/2, Property No. 293/1B, situated at Subbiayannapalya, Banasawadi Dhakale, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, measuring East to West 43 feet and North to South 55 feet in all measuring 2365 Sq.Feet and bounded :- **East by :** Private Property, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** 2 B Cross Road, **South by :** Private Property.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 14.12.2023.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff : **Vinay Kumar .M.C.** Meesaganahalli, B K Halli Post, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Mr. Bandi Venugopal,** S/o Bandi Anjineyul, residing at No.15/229, Bandi Gardens, PRT Street, Dharmavaram-515671, Ananthpur District, Andhra Pradesh.

In view of the above, anybody who has any manner of right or interest on the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the purchase; may file their objections in writing with documentary proof before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all sort of encumbrances, claims, mortgages and obligations and my client shall go on with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an Agricultural land measuring 19 [Ninteen] Guntas bearing Sy.No.45/5 (Old Sy. No.45/2) situated at Yarthiganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, converted for residential purpose and bounded on the:

East by : Land of Thimmakka in Sy. No.44; West by : Lands of Poornachandra Reddy and Saraswathi in Sy.No.46; North by : 30 Guntas of land in Sy. No.45/2 retained by the Vendor; South by : Land of M.N.K. Raju in Sy. No.45/3;

PRABHAKAR L. SHETTY, Advocate, No.6/3, Kumara Cot Layout, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001. Ph.No. 9448075994, Ph.No. 9980210500

DATE : 16.12.2023

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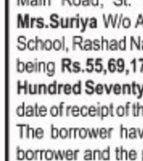

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Indian Overseas Bank G2

Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- SUPPLY IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATA CLASSIFICATION TOOL

BID NO: GEM/2023/B/4334771 DATED: 12.12.2023

Earlier GEM bid No: GEM/2023/B/3790144 dated 07.08.2023 has been cancelled.

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in**

For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank **HEAD OFFICE :: BENGALURU**

POSSESSION NOTICE
(SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 04/10/2023** calling upon the **1. Borrower : M/s Go Mobiles, Rep by Prop: Sukumar,** 122, 3rd main, 4th Cross C-Block, Near New Noble School, Rashad Nagar, Bengaluru-45, **2. Borrower : Mr. Sukumar (Proprietor of M/s Go Mobiles) S/o A.S.Kumar,** Property No 50/2, Khata No 130, Pooja Arcade, Kammanahalli Main Road, St. Thomas town Post, Bengaluru-84, **3. Guarantor/ Mortgagor, Mrs.Suriya** W/o A.S.Kumar, 122, 3rd main, 4th Cross C-Block, Near New Noble School, Rashad Nagar, Bangalore-45, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.55,69,179.13./- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy Nine Rupees and Thirteen Paise only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **12th day of December, 2023.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs.55,69,179.13./- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy Nine Rupees and Thirteen Paise only)** as on **04/10/2023** and further interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property:

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing site No.28, being a portion of Property No.31/7, bearing BBMP Khatha No. 28-31/7, Situated at Nagawara, Kasba Hobli, Bangalore North taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 25 feet. In all measuring to an extent of 750 square feet and presently coming with the Administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP and **Bounded on: North** - Private Property, **East** - Site No 29, **South** - Road, **West** - Site No 29.

Date : 12.12.2023
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 14.12.2023	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	30258300000298	1) Mr. Parthiban J, Also at: M/s. Janalakshmi Financial Service, 2) Mrs. Vennila P, 3) Mr. Balaraman Also at: M/s. M R F Ltd.	10.04.2023	28.09.2023	Rs.8,80,921.54 (Rupees Eight Lakh Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One and Fifty Four Paisa Only)	26.12.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.7,29,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Only)	Rs. 72,900/- (Rupees Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	05.01.2024 @ 02:00 PM	04.01.2024, Till 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: Schedule-A (Description of Immoveable Property): All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands totally measuring about 11 Acres and 18 Guntas including the Kharab Land in Survey Nos.39/1, 39/2, 40/3 and 42/1 all situated at M Medehalli, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Lands in Survey No.43, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Mayasandra Gadi, **South by:** Lands in Survey No.41. **Schedule-B (Property to be Conveyed):** The undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property mentioned above works out to 195 Square Feet. **Schedule-C (Apartment):** Residential Apartment bearing No.B-106, Khatha No.429, Assessment No.T-S-FF-B-106, First Floor of Tower-5, consists of One Hall, One Bed Room, Kitchen, Bath Room and a balcony in the Residential Apartment Complex Known as "JANAADHAR SHUBHA" construction on the Schedule 'A' Property, having a super built up area of 400 Sq.ft with vitrified flooring and the proportionate share in the common areas such as passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s and is **Bounded on: East by:** Open Space, **West by:** A-105, **North by:** Open Space, **South by:** Corridor. The Super Built Area means and includes the exclusive floor area of each Apartment Unit and the proportionate areas covered by common wall/s, passage/s, stair/s, duct/s, well and/or room/s, water drainage and/or electrical conduct/s, parks, and/or other area/s used in common with the Purchaser/s of other Apartment/s. **Schedule-D (List of Facilities):** Storm water storage, Recharge pits, Rain water collection tank, STP- treated & reused, Overhead tank, Bore well water treated & used, UG sump & Pumps, Solar street lighting & Dual flush system for WC's.									
2	34019430000406 45389430000730 & 34019680000017	1) Mrs. Ramavathi V, Also at: M/s. R R Enterprises, 2) Mr. Ravishankar C, Also at: M/s. S L N Infra	22.06.2023	09.09.2023	Rs.48,48,092.34 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Ninety Two and Thirty Four Paisa Only)	26.12.2023 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.43,74,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Only)	Rs.4,37,400/- (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Only)	05.01.2024 @ 02:00 PM	04.01.2024, Till 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: Schedule-'A' (Description of the Property): All that piece and parcel of the property bearing converted Sy.No.53/3, measuring 0.02 Guntas and Sy.No.24/2 (Twenty Four/ Two) measuring 1-10 (One Acre Ten Guntas), i.e., East to West: (215+204)/2 Feet and North to South: (301+240)/2 Feet, presently Bommanahalli Nagarasasbhe Khatha No.234, converted for residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.BDS/ALN/SR (S) 784/2004-05, dated 30/03/2005, issued by the special deputy commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and **Bounded on the: East by:** Inam Land of Anjaneyaswamy Temple, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private Property & **South by:** Domlur Ramaiah Reddy's Land. **Schedule-'B':** All that Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.N-010 in the ground floor of the said building situated in the North Block in "PIONEER PARADISE" constructed in Schedule 'A' property and the Apartment measuring 1080 sq.feet of super built up area having one Hall, Two Bedrooms, Kitchen, General Bathroom and Attached Bathroom, having Ceramic Tiles Flooring, Teak Wood door frame with OST Shutter and Sal and Honne Wood Windows, with common overhead Tank and common sump water facilities, with one Top Covered Car Parking Space No.N-010 in basement together with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use. **Schedule-'C':** All that 360 Square Feet of Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' property.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249), Mr. Umesh (Mob No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 18.12.2023, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

EDITORIAL

There is that difference between being kicked in the teeth and reading a description of being kicked in the teeth. Some call it existential

Gita Mehta

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NEED AGRI-FRIENDLY POLICIES TO STOP FARMER SUICIDES

THE number of suicides by farmers in India continues to be high. Maharashtra, which traditionally held the top slot among all states, reported 2,366 suicides by farmers during the first 10 months of 2023. That amounts to 8 suicides a day in Maharashtra alone. Other large states such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh, too, are not far behind.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau's latest report, in 2022, as many as 11,290 farmers were reported to have died by suicide, with the five large states accounting for a lion's share. In the demographic chart, farmers take the third spot while the unemployed youth and students take the top two positions. Why do farmers take their lives? The mounting debt and crop failures are the prime reasons. Being unable to repay loans, farmers drag themselves into penury, which in turn lead them to starvation, land loss, and mental distress.

On the other hand, the vagaries of weather have resulted in frequent crop failures,. Several farmers are found to be suffering from anxiety and insomnia. The unregulated production of crops and the herd mentality of farmers have continued to create a mess with production and concomitant pricing of the produce. The huge price-drop that forces farmers to dump their produce is another villain. Unfriendly policies, anti-farmer laws, corrupt administration, and inadequate crop insurance and subsidies are also making life difficult for them. What is alarming is that the country is unable to disentangle itself from the familiar situations and save farmers once and for all. As per the Economic Survey 2022-23, as much as 65 percent of India's population lives in the rural areas and 47 percent is dependent on agriculture for livelihood.

It is vital that the agriculture infrastructure including silos for grain storage, reefer networks and atmosphere-controlled transportation for perishable commodities, etc—is set up in adequate measures. Making institutional finance and wider crop insurance available to farmers, and introducing effective water management, prevention of crop failures and a minimum support price regime even for vegetables and fruits can bring peace. It is heartening that India has become self-reliant and export-driven in several agri products. But if farmers remain distressed, new-gen may move to other greener pastures. The government may need to bring in more farmer-friendly policies to ensure their commitment and continued participation.

GOWDA'S LAST-DITCH BID FOR JD(S)'S SURVIVAL

The 180-degree turnaround of former prime minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda to strike an alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls is to do with the party's survival more than anything else. But the party's now-expelled, then state president and ex-Union minister C M Ibrahim vehemently opposed the party, with its secular credentials, tying up with the right-wing BJP. Events panned out with Ibrahim and the then JD(S) national vice-president C K Nanu splitting from the mother party to form a faction which they term as the 'real JD(S)', claiming a majority of the party's 19 MLAs in Karnataka to be on their side.

As expected, Gowda expelled them. Following this, Nanu, who now claims to be the JD(S) national president, held a party convention to 'remove' Gowda from the post of national president. The 'removal' has no *locus standi* as Nanu and Ibrahim were already expelled from the party.

A majority of the JD(S) MLAs are still firmly with Gowda; besides, Ibrahim, despite being a fine orator, is not a mass leader, especially in the JD(S)'s perceived stronghold of Hassan-Mysuru-Mandya region, where the Congress, too, enjoys a firm grip, being the bastion of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and deputy CM D K Shivakumar.

In fact, the Congress had wooed the minority votes away from the JD(S), which resulted in the party's pathetic performance in the 2023 Assembly polls. Besides, the JD(S) was also not invited to the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A), the Congress-led 28-party-strong opposition front to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to dislodge the ruling BJP from the Centre. This formed the core reason for an alliance with BJP for its survival despite ideological differences.

The developments in JD(S) are not expected to affect its alliance with the BJP. For Gowda, the bigger problem is to retain his MLAs in the party fold.

The threat to JD(S)'s survival is not from the Nanu-Ibrahim faction, but from the Congress. The grand old party is expected to go all out to strengthen its base in Old Mysuru region, which is also strategic to JD(S). Striking a win-win deal with BJP at the Lok Sabha polls is another challenge for Gowda. In all, it appears that the LS polls will be the last-ditch stand for Gowda and JD(S).

QUICK TAKE

ENGAGE WITH WOMEN LEFT BEHIND

A recent doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Pennsylvania in the US has shed light on one of the most decisive factors in recent Indian elections—the higher turnout of women. Rithika Kumar has shown that women whose husbands migrate for work are more likely to engage in civic activities such as voting. In the absence of their "primary gatekeepers", women gain more local information and bargaining power. Political parties that deploy booth-level workers to engage with locals would do well to directly address these women's needs and help them access more welfare schemes. It would be a win-win for the parties and the people.

The secret behind BJP's success lies in Modi's reliability and Shah's detailed planning. The party's ability to address issues via organised schemes draws in voters

HOW BJP'S MAGIC POTION CONQUERS MINDS

A SURYA PRAKASH

Vice-Chairman, Executive Council, Prime Ministers Museum and Library, New Delhi

THE results of the recent elections of five state assemblies show that in a diverse and vibrant democracy like India, politicians and election managers need to be continuously educated, lest they misread the results in one round and flounder in the next.

Buoyed by its success in Karnataka, where it offered five guarantees, the Congress thought it had the magic formula to destroy its political opponent—the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—and offered six guarantees in Telengana, seven in Rajasthan and an unspecified number of guarantees in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

But the formulae fell flat in the three Hindi-speaking states. Ultimately, what triumphed was Narendra Modi's guarantee and Amit Shah's warranty!

It is difficult to discern the logic of the doles dished out by the Congress in each state. Why did the guarantees and the list of goodies vary from state to state? While the BJP went back to the drawing board after the Karnataka debacle, the Congress misinterpreted the verdict.

In these elections, the BJP remained committed to deploying its trump card—Narendra Modi—and offering his national guarantees, even though it did not wholly shun the temptation to offer local inducements. After the shock treatment it got at the hands of the voters of Karnataka, it realised local aspirations must be met without losing sight of the nation's economic well-being and the party's national goals.

This was the big take-away for the BJP from the defeat in Karnataka. Thus, the party did not go berserk by offering freebies like electricity and bus rides to the people, like the Congress in Karnataka and the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and Punjab. Its approach was a combination of across-the-board anti-poverty programmes, local assurances and national aspirations. This included free rations for 800 million people; *Ayushman Bharat*, a health insurance scheme; the *Ujjwala Yojana* distribution of subsidised LPG cylinders to poor families; the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* (Housing);annual financial benefit to farmers of ₹6000 under the *Kisan Samman Nidhi* and a maternity benefit scheme to provide ₹5000 to every pregnant woman above 19 years for the first birth. But, more importantly, they ensured implementation of these schemes and transfer of benefits directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. In other words, these are all poverty alleviation and social welfare schemes spread across the country which any welfare state is obliged to offer and are not in the category of freebies. They have been in operation for several years and implemented with far greater efficiency than in the past because of Modi's constant monitoring of targets achieved.

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Side by side, there was the party's well-oiled machinery working towards specific, targeted electoral objectives, thanks to Amit Shah's plan of action.

Amit Shah's micro management is something that is very special to the BJP and is talked about in various party circles. The party strives to establish contact with electors in every booth way ahead of elections. These booth level workers are called *Panna Pramukhs* (page leaders) in charge of a single page in the electoral roll, which has the names of 30 electors.

These *Panna Pramukhs* then go on to contact electors, check whether they have received the benefits promised by Modi and connect with all those who are beneficiaries of government schemes. In a sense, this is an equivalent of servicing centres of companies selling consumer goods. The difference is that if you buy a product and it malfunctions, you complain to the service centre whereas here, the BJP workers reach out to the electors sou motu. This level of booth management is executed by the BJP with varying degrees of success in the country. The greater the efficiency of Operation Panna Pramukh in a state, the more invincible the party will become in elections.

For example, in Madhya Pradesh, the booth-level worker was tasked to identify beneficiaries of the *Ladli Behena Scheme* launched last March by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, under which they offered ₹1250 to the women hailing from poor families. This was done with extraordinary planning and execution, so much so that the party was able to connect with most of the 12 million women who were receiving the government grant every month and they ensured that they reached the polling stations on voting day. The precision with which this was executed could be seen in the voter turn-out and support for the party in the state. Eventually the party secured 49 percent of the vote as against the Congress Party's 41 percent. In a large number of constituencies, the BJP's share of women's vote was ten percent more than that of the Congress.

In Chhattisgarh, a complacent Congress was in for a rude shock. The BJP went about its task silently and diligently. The party's manifesto in this state declared that *'Modi ki Guarantee'* was on the table which it said was far more credible and reliable. So, here again, the Modi magic worked!

This discipline and organisational skills of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh was such that the Congress Party's Grihalakshmi Scheme offering ₹1500 a month to every woman head in a household failed to attract voters. Modi's over-arching guarantee of good governance and social welfare schemes seemed far more solid and financially prudent than the freebies offered by the Congress. But, when combined with Amit Shah's warranty which assures the people that the party cadres will always be with them, the BJP will be on a strong wicket. The supreme confidence of the Modi-Shah duo in their national agenda of governance is best exemplified by the choice of chief ministers in the three states won by the party. This is a signal to the people of the country that when it comes to governance, there cannot be a better brand and a better guarantee or warranty!

(Views are personal)
(suryamedia@gmail.com)

A TRIP TO THE MARKET CHANGED JANBA AND JANA'S LIFE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

ALMOST every culture has picked up on the cautionary tale of the simpleton who exchanges a thing of value for something less, and does so several times until left with nothing in particular. But this devotional folk tale intriguingly stands the premise on its head.

Janba Patil and his wife Jana Bai were a byword for being soft-hearted, in their upland village in what is now Maharashtra. Besides a couple of fields and a few cattle, they had a yard full of vegetables. The holy tulsi flourished in its square, decorated brick urn in front and the soil beneath it was silky soft, for Jana Bai watered the tulsi every day from a copper pot as part of her daily devotions. No matter how tired they felt after the day's chores, Janba Patil and Jana Bai took care not to speak roughly to their little boy and girl for, said Jana Bai, "The hearts of children are as soft as the earth beneath the tulsi."

Instead, the children were told delightful stories about the playful, mysterious gods who loved to sport with mortals for their own amusement.

The children especially liked to hear of Krishna, who loved animals and fresh white butter just as they did. The parents, too, were always glad to speak of him for they worshipped Krishna as their lord, as Vithoba in the temple town of Pandharpur. One day, Jana Bai told her husband, "Why don't you sell our second buffalo at the market tomorrow? We have more milk than we need from the first one." So Janba took the buffalo towards a village where cattle were usually sold. A short distance away, he was hailed by a stranger on horseback. "Where are you off to with that fine buffalo, Patil?" said the horseman.

"To sell her at the market," said Janba cordially. "Why bother? Why not take my fine Kathiawari mare in exchange?" offered the stranger.

"Why not, after all? My children will enjoy the rides," said Janba and they exchanged animals. But after leading the mare away, he discovered that she was blind in one eye. A man leading a pretty milch cow had stopped to watch as Janba gently rubbed the mare's head after she banged blindside on a tree.

"Why not trade that one-eyed mare for my cow?" said this stranger sympathetically. Janba agreed and the stranger rode off. But a few steps forward with the cow revealed her to be lame in the hindleg. "Never mind," thought Janba stoutly, "it's not your fault, poor thing," and turned back to see if he could sell the cow. But a man with a goat stopped him and offered to exchange it for the cow. Janba agreed but soon the goat fell into a faint for it was very sickly. A man with a fine rooster came along and convinced Janba to trade the goat for the rooster. At last, Janba Patil arrived at the market

EXPRESS

A tale from Maharashtra talks of Janba Patil and Jana Bai. These devotees of Krishna cared for all things living, including their holy tulsi plant. But when they went out of their way to help nature, they were unexpectedly paid back

and managed to sell the rooster for a rupee. He had planned to do some shopping after selling the buffalo but now all he had was a rupee and he found himself very hungry. Janba bought himself a roti and dry curry for a few *annas* and sat down to eat beneath a tree.

But just as the first morsel was on its way to his mouth, he found a man looking longingly at his food. "Feed me, traveller, I have had no food for two days," said the man, trembling. Janba felt very sorry for him. He stood up at once and courteously held out his lunch. "Eat, friend, may God keep you," he said warmly and left for home. It was past the hour of *godhuli* when Janba Patil got home and sat down wearily on the string cot in his courtyard. The children flew to fetch water, to give him to drink and to wash away the dust. "What kept you, Baba? We were worried," they piped and looking at their sweet, concerned faces, Janba Patil forgot how tired he was. He told them the day's adventures and apologised for coming home empty-handed.

"Not at all, you did the right thing," said his wife. "A horse would have been nice for the children to ride on. A cow would have been their own pet and cow's milk is very good for growing children. A goat would have been all right, too, for they say that goat's milk has healing qualities. A rooster would have made an ornamental pet with his fine feathers, and would have woken us up every morning. So, all your exchanges were good. But we didn't need that rooster. I'm glad you did not go hungry but bought food with the rupee."

"But I didn't eat it," said Patil, smiling. "I gave my lunch to a hungry man who showed up just as I was about to eat." "Well, that was right. It's good to feed the hungry, especially if they come by when you're eating. It's rude to eat alone without sharing," said Jana Bai and the children nodded, for they had been taught that very early by their mother. Janba felt like the cleverest man on earth.

The little family went off to sleep soon after, drawing contentment like a quilt over themselves. Early next morning, they were woken up by a loud cry of "*Kokoro-ko-ko!*" followed by a chorus of moos, whinnies and bleats. Lined up outside in the yard were a stout she-buffalo, a dainty bright-eyed mare, a plump she-goat in perfect health, a preening, strutting rooster and a pipal leaf on the plinth of the tulsi stand with a shining rupee coin on it.

"Ohh!" said the children while Janba Patil and Jana Bai looked at each other.

"Now who could those strangers have been?" said Jana Bai meaningfully. "Ah, who?" said Janba Patil, beaming. But the children didn't need to be told. They were flat on the ground, stretched out in namaste to Krishna-in-the-tulsi.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Power stripped

As of now, the election commission has lost much of its autonomy to conduct free and fair elections. With the passage of the bill on the appointment of the chief election commissioner the final nail has been struck. This will make the election commission a powerless entity.
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

BJP's strategy

Ref: *New CMs are Kar Sevaks, not Caste Captains* (Dec 17). Kudos to Prabhu Chawla for his analysis of Modi's lateral thinking that led to the creation of regional brand ambassadors for BJP. Caste matrix counts a lot but it is not a determining factor in power dispensation. Modi seems all set to spring surprises in the South too through Annamalai in TN, Tejasvi Surya in Karnataka and Anil Antony in Kerala.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Political tool

Ref: *Cops to question Simha tomorrow over House pass* (Dec 17). Even as the Opposition is clamouring for Mysore BJP MP Prathap Simha who issued passes to the parliament attackers to be questioned—Delhi police is doing this. The opposition must not make the Parliament breach a political tool.
K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Government's lies

Ref: *Nirmala: Centre not biased against Kerala* (Dec 17). The dispute on funds between Kerala and Centre is propaganda employed by Kerala government to mask their splurge. Lies are the bedrock of this government. The Kerala government has given a go-by to the fiscal management to accommodate the partisan politics.
Ullattil Pakiteeri Raghunathan, Thrissur

Officials' duty

Ref: *Addressing citizens' issue personal duty of officials: HC* (Dec 17). Government officials are responsible for resolving and supervising conflicts between private and public interests, and protecting rights of the citizens. But very often the officials only serve the people who have either muscle or money power. Madras High Court's warning to employees to give proper response to citizens who approach them is a welcome.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Clean energy

Though India is one of the largest fossil fuel users, we have made advancements in clean energy. Whereas other carbon gas emitters do not make strides in alternative clean energy. Every climate summit seems to move at a snail's pace with rich economies reluctant to compensate poorer nations.
K Jayanthi, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Jagdeep Dhankar @VPIndia
Our economy has overtaken Canada, left England behind, left France behind! In the coming four-five years, Japan and Germany will also be behind us.

P Chidambaram @PChidambaram_IN
The Israel-Hamas war is a war with no rules. The UN Security Council, especially the veto-holding countries, have abdicated their responsibility

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
When Uttar Pradesh is at No 1 in crimes against women, BJP will argue it has the highest population, so crimes will also be highest. The public will say then resources are also the highest.

Don't squabble over security breach: PM

On Parliament impasse, Modi says all efforts should be made to look for a solution with a collective spirit

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

FOUR days after a breach in Parliament security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "seriousness" of the incident during the ongoing winter session should not be "underestimated." He said that no one should squabble over the issue, which is being investigated by competent agencies.

In an interview with a Hindi daily, Modi said the Lok Sabha Speaker is taking necessary steps and that it was important to unravel the intentions behind it. "It is equally important to go in-depth as to who these elements are. Solutions should be found with one mind," he said, stressing that everyone should avoid debate over such topics.

The PM's remarks came amid the Opposition's demand for a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah and a debate on the incident. As many as 14 Opposition MPs have been suspended from both Houses when they trooped into the well of Houses demanding a statement from the home minister.

The PM termed the breach as "painful and a matter of concern." "All efforts should also be made to look for a solution with collective spirit. Everyone should avoid squabbling over such an issue."

On December 13, two persons had jumped from the visitors' gallery into the Lok Sabha chamber and were pounced upon by some members and the House marshals. Six persons have been arrested.

It is equally important to go in-depth as to who these elements (who breached security in Lok Sabha) are. The solutions should be found with one mind

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The PM also told the interviewer that he considered January 22 — the day the idol of Lord Ram would be installed in the sanctum sanctorum of Ram temple in Ayodhya — as a very special day for him. "This happiness is not going to be only of Modi. This is an opportunity for the happiness and satisfaction of 140 crore people. For me, this opportunity is meant to bring 'Ayodhya to every House, Ram to every house'," he said.

In reply to another query, the PM said no power can now bring back Article 370 in J&K. About the recent Supreme Court verdict on the abrogation of Article 370, he said the top court has put its stamp of approval on government's decision.

On BJP picking relatively new and little-known leaders as chief ministers in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the PM said the leaders have lots of experience and hard work behind them. "The truth is that they are not new. They have done hard work and have experience," he said.

He also said that the recent BJP victory in three states showed that the party was set to score a historic win again in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He asserted that his government was committed to taking forward the resolve of a developed India. He said the three states rejected instability and politics of selfishness in the country.

He said winning the hearts of the people was more important than counting seats. "I try to win hearts, if I work hard, then the people themselves fill my bag," he said. He said India was working towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and youth have become carriers of prosperous India.

Prior to the PM's statements, LS speaker on Saturday in a letter to lawmakers said that the investigation into the security breach was being conducted and a high power committee has also been made to review the security of the Parliament complex.

'PM running away from debate to avoid queries'

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

REACTING sharply to Prime Minister Modi's remarks on the security breach in Parliament, the Congress on Sunday said that he is running away from a debate on the issue in both the Houses of Parliament, fearing questions on the role of the BJP MP who facilitated entry to the attackers.

Since two men jumped from the visitors' gallery into the Lok Sabha chamber on December 13, the opposition parties have been up in arms demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah in both Houses of Parliament. As many as 14 MPs have been suspended from Parliament for allegedly disrupting House proceedings.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The Prime Minister has finally broken his silence on the extraordinary events in the Lok Sabha on December 13. He says probe is needed and not debate, and that such a probe is on," he said, adding, "The PM is running away from a debate for a very simple reason. Questions will be raised on the role of the Mysuru BJP MP Pratap Simha in facilitating the entry of the intruders into the Lok Sabha on December 13.".

The PM is running away from a debate for a very simple reason. Questions will be raised on the role of the Mysuru BJP MP Pratap Simha in facilitating the entry of the intruders

Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader

While the PM urged the Opposition not to politicise the issue, Ramesh hinted at INDIA alliance's firm resolve to extract a statement from Home Minister on the issue.

"All that INDIA parties are asking for and will continue to press for is a statement by the Home Minister on what happened on December 13 and how exactly it happened," said Ramesh. The Opposition has also taken exception to the fact that the Home Minister and the PM are making statements on the "serious breach" on TV channels before making statements in Parliament.

POWER GAMES

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Battle 2024

INDIA ALLIES TO DISCUSS EVM, VVPAT ON DEC 19

The fourth meeting of the INDIA partners is scheduled to be held in Delhi on December 19. Sources said that one of the key issues to be discussed at this meeting will be the reliability of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) and need for increased tallying of the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) to ensure that the votes go to the correct candidate. The defeat of Congress in the three states, especially in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, has revived allegations of EVM tampering. The opposition parties are likely to adopt a resolution asking the Election Commission of India to address the doubts over EVMs by increasing the number of polling booths per assembly constituency where VVPATs are tallied with the votes recorded in the EVMs. VVPATs are paper slips that are printed as soon as a vote is cast indicating the candidate in whose favour the vote is recorded. As per the Election Commission's latest order, VVPAT slips of five randomly selected polling booths are tallied with the votes recorded in the EVMs in every assembly constituency. A petition was filed in the Supreme Court earlier this year by the Association for Democratic Reforms seeking direction to tally the VVPAT slips of not just five polling booths per assembly constituency but all the VVPAT slips with the votes recorded in the EVM. It sought 100 per cent counting of VVPAT slips. The Elections Commission had opposed the demand by saying that counting all the slips would take the election process back to the ballot system. The opposition parties are now likely to ask the Election Commission to increase the tallying in more than five booths.

AICC Reconstitution

CONG MAY BRING GEHLOT, BAGHEL TO CENTRE

The Congress central leadership is mulling a proposal to induct two former chief ministers Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel into its central organisational setup. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge is likely to reconstitute the All India Congress Committee this month. The reshuffle will include changing AICC general secretaries, secretaries and chairmen of departments and cells. According to sources, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi is keen on relinquishing the charge of Uttar Pradesh. Bhupesh Baghel is likely to succeed her. The talk of his shift to centre gained credence with the party nominating former assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant as the leader of opposition in the Chhattisgarh assembly in spite of the fact that Baghel is also an MLA. Baghel belongs to the prominent Kurmi community of the OBC, which constitutes a sizable population in Uttar Pradesh and votes largely in favour of the BJP in that state. Sources said the Congress has big plans for Uttar Pradesh. It includes fielding Kharge for the Lok Sabha from the state. The party plans to focus on the Dalit, OBC and Muslim votes. Gehlot, too, is likely to be given charge of an important state to prepare the party for the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

Ahead of meeting PM, Didi raises pitch on Bengal dues

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

WHILE hitting out at the BJP on the Centre's alleged unilateral decisions, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday, before flying to Delhi to attend INDIA bloc's meeting and meet Prime Minister Modi to demand the state's dues from the Centre, broke her silence four days after the security breach in Parliament describing the incident as a serious matter. "The Parliament security breach is a serious matter. There was a major lapse. The Union Home Minister has already admitted that. Let them investigate it," said Mamata at Kolkata airport.

The CM flew to Delhi, where she will be staying till December 20, with her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, the second-in-command in the TMC who is also a member of INDIA's 12-member coordination committee. Lambasting the BJP-led Centre over the issue of colour of government establishments, Mamata alleged, "Now, they are asking us to paint the healthcare centres with saffron colour. They have already painted Metro railway stations with saffron colour. It is unfortunate. During my recent north Bengal visit, I noticed houses in Sukna, near the Army's base, have been coloured with saffron. They are deciding what people will eat and what people will wear. What is this?"

Mamata is scheduled to hold a meeting with her party MPs at Banga Bhavan on Monday, a day before the INDIA bloc's meeting. "In the letter to the PMO, I mentioned that I would like to take some of my MPs with me in the meeting with the PM on December 20. We will finalise the list and inform accordingly," she said.

She said she will raise the key issue of Bengal's dues in the meeting. "The Centre is not paying for the welfare schemes under the heads of housing, rural roads and 100-day jobs under MGNREGA. We have finalised a list of 11 lakh beneficiaries under the housing scheme, but no funds have been issued by the Centre. In my earlier meeting with the PM, I raised these issues and this time, I will again make them key points of discussion," she said.

NRIs to march to embassies, seek safety for properties in India

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

NRIs from across the globe will visit their embassies and consular offices later this month and file a memorandum to urge the authorities in India to evolve systems to ensure their properties and assets in India are safe.

Subhas Balappanavar, a techie, of NRI Grievances Group that was started with 383 members to ensure NRIs are not exploited, told TNIE, said he would go with a group of petitioners on bicycles to the Indian consular office in San Francisco. He said they would coordinate visits of petitioners in batches to all six consular offices in the US and give them similar petitions.

Former Mayor of Lambeth Dr Neeraj Patil is expected to join a batch of petitioners to the London office, while groups of NRI petitioners will go to two consular offices in Canada, one in the United Kingdom, two in the Middle East, one in Australia, and many in Europe. Shashidhara Nagarajappa will lead in the Gulf region, while Raja Naik will lead in Vancouver, Canada, and Jayaprakash will lead the team in Australia.

They said they wanted the main political parties, BJP and Congress, to take up the issue of safeguarding assets, wealth and properties of NRIs in their party manifestos, since elections are round the corner. The NRIs are also ready to knock on the doors of the judiciary, if necessary.

In a memorandum, they will urge the government to draft rules and systems, especially as hundreds of NRIs have been victims of cheating and fraud.

NRIs account for about 30 per cent of India's foreign exchange reserves. Those who are entangled in property issues have realised they they are at a serious disadvantage when it comes to safeguarding their properties in India because of the distance, and will urge the Union and state governments to set up an exclusive department for NRIs to ensure their 'wealth' concerns are looked after effectively.

They sought user-friendly measures for NRIs, like having online FIR, online inquiry, panchanama and said it would be very convenient if investigation are completed in a time-bound manner, and issues resolved in specially set up court in a time-bound manner, rather than dragging for years and decades.

They said they would also seek harsher punishments to those seeking to defraud or harm NRIs and also ensure NRIs are not unnecessarily penalised.

Chairperson of Karnataka NRI Forum Arathi Krishna, who enjoys the rank of a cabinet minister, told TNIE, "NRIs need to be protected. We had in our Congress manifesto mentioned that we would have a separate department for NRIs in Karnataka and we are working towards it and are going through the different models available to set up a new department and secretariat for NRIs."

Former MP Janardhan Swamy said, "It is an important issue and the right departments need to come together to work out a solution."

Govt mulls new rating system for hospitality sector

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AIMING at world class hygiene and sanitation in hotels, resorts and homestays, the Union Ministry of Tourism is set to roll out a rating system for the hospitality sector.

The owners and operators of the lodging services will be encouraged to adopt good practices for improved and safe sanitation facilities, faecal sludge management, segregation of solid waste at sources and promotion alternatives to single-use plastic.

The ranking scheme — Swachhata Green Leaf Rating — is expected to enhance awareness and collaborative achievements for common goals in the tourism and hospitality sector, said officials privy to the plan.

The rating will be based on compliance with the safe sanitation practices outlined in the guidelines. According to the officials, the objectives are also to prevent pollution in water bodies and keep the environment clean.

"The toilets in hotels and restaurants may be cleaned, but where is that faeces sludge going? Chances are high that sewage is just flowing directly into the nearest rivulet, pond or lake like it normally happens. So, we are trying to bring awareness to how that can be bad for the environment and end up actually ruining the destination, or for that matter, the district," said the officials.

The rating initiative is in collaboration with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Travel for LIFE campaign of NITI Aayog. The state teams of Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) and tourism department will organise workshops on the concept, process and the desired outcomes for the stakeholders.

"The thrust is on rural areas now, where hospitality units in terms of home stays, bed and breakfast, small restaurants and tea shops are made aware and they are helped with low cost technologies, which actually get the needful done," the officials further explained.

The scheme will be introduced in states in different phases and the pilot programme will be launched in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. The plan is afoot to take up the project in Neil Island of Andaman Islands. "Tourists will have options to select the facility which has Green Leaf Rating — higher rating or the one that doesn't have a rating at all. We are moving ahead with a premise. Now, people are environmentally conscious these days and they will go for the facility with a higher rating," added the officials.

At present, there is no incentive offer but the ministry is exploring possibilities to provide subvention in future. "We want banks to give them some interest subventions; a subsidy, or ministry may pay for all those things. We are working this out, but first we want to roll it out and see how it is creating an impact," the official said.

SWACHHATA GREEN LEAF RATING

Operators of lodging services will be encouraged to adopt good practices for improved and safe sanitation facilities, faecal sludge management, segregation of solid waste at sources and promotion alternatives to single-use plastic

Pilot programme will be launched in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
Plan is also afoot to take up the project in Neil Island of Andaman Islands
HOTEL

- Rating will be based on compliance with safe sanitation practices outlined in the guidelines
- Workshops will be organised on the concept, process and desired outcomes for all stakeholders
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Official in tourism ministry

Railways spent over ₹1.2L crore for upgrading assets in last five years

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

WITH a view towards improving safety, the Railways claims to have spent an amount of over ₹1.22 lakh crore in carrying out massive replacement and upgradation of railway assets including old railway tracks and bridges in the country over the last 5 years.

The upgradation project also included locomotives, wagons and signaling equipments to ensure safe and swift services.

According to the Railways, this is being done in addition to regular inspection of assets to ensure their fitness for services and obsolete assets are being replaced with new technology on age-cum-condition basis.

In the last five years, the Railways has met an actual expenditure of ₹1,22,865 crore on replacement and upgradation of assets over the last 5 years.

"The total expenditure of ₹1,22,865 crore is funded to the extent of ₹78.501 crore from Gross Budgetary Support and balance from Internal Generation and Extra Budget Resources on Ministry of Railways," said an official, adding that the outlay for budget estimate 2023-24 is ₹29,325 crore.

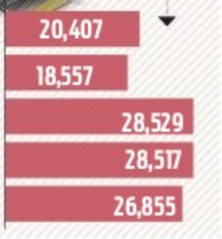
The Railways claimed that ₹20,407 crore was spent on the replacement and upgradation of railway assets in 2018-19, ₹18,557 in 2019-20, ₹28,529 in 2020-21, ₹28,517 in 2021-22 and ₹26,855 in 2022-23.

To ensure safety in operating of trains at high speed, the Railways spends capital expenditure on replacement of tracks under the Plan Head 31-Track Renewals while expenditure on replacement of coaching stock is met under Plan Head 21-Rolling Stock.

Sharing details of expenditures, the Railways said ₹9,690 crore was spent on track renewals in 2018-19, ₹9,391 in 2019-20, ₹13,523 crore in 2020-21, ₹16,558 crore in 2021-22 and ₹16,325 crore in 2022-23. It had spent ₹1,815 crore on rolling stock programme in 2018-19, ₹1,178 crore in 2019-20, ₹3,466 crore in 2020-21, ₹2,870 crore in 2021-22 and ₹2,034 crore in 2022-23.

Keeping it on track

Expenditure on replacement and upgradation of assets (in ₹crore)



YEARWISE EXPENDITURE

Year	track renewals	rolling stock programme
2018-19	9,690	1,815
2019-20	9,391	1,178
2020-21	13,523	3,466
2021-22	16,558	2,870
2022-23	16,325	2,034

ARUNACHAL

The principal of a school in Arunachal Pradesh's Pakke Kessang district was arrested for allegedly beating up students who failed to recite the prayer properly and lacked proficiency in Sanskrit, police said on Sunday.

02 CHEETAHS RELEASED IN TOURIST ZONE OF KUNO NATIONAL PARK

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	15	28	Mumbai	24	34
Bhopal	12	27	Panaji	25	35
Jaipur	12	24	Patna	12	26
Amritsar	07	22	Lucknow	09	23
Chennai	25	30	Port Blair	26	31
Kolkata	14	25	Imphal	10	23
Srinagar	-2	11	Chandigarh	06	22

Kashi, TN share special emotional bond, says PM

On 2nd edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, Modi quotes Subramania Bharathi saying India's diversity shaped by spiritual consciousness

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

HIGHLIGHTING the emotional and creative bond between the people of Kashi, his parliamentary constituency, and Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that events like Kashi-Tamil Sangmam consolidated the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'.

While inaugurating the second edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi on Sunday, the PM sought to define the ties between the two most ancient centres of the country's rich cultural heritage, saying Kashi and Tamil Nadu shared centuries old ties which were not only emotional but creative also as both were the abodes of Lord Shiva.

"In other parts of the world, countries are relegated to being just a political definition but 'Bharat' has been blessed with different spiritual faiths in abundance and this spirituality has kept this country one. Saints like Adi Shankaracharya and Ramanujam rekindled sense of nationalism by criss-crossing the country. Due to the Yatras by those spiritual gurus who instilled spiritual consciousness in the countrymen, India has remained eternal and unwavering as a nation," said the PM while addressing the gathering of delegates of the Samagam at Namo Ghat in Varanasi.

PM Narendra Modi with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam 2.0 | PTI

He acknowledged that India's diversity has been shaped by spiritual consciousness as was also signified by great Pandian king Parakram Pandian who had said that all water in India was Gangajal, and every geographical location of the country was Kashi.

Quoting Subramania Bharathi, Modi said that vibrations of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam were spreading throughout the country and the world at large.

He noted that lakhs of people, including heads of mutts, students, artists, authors, craftsmen and professionals had become part of the Sangamam since its inception last year. "It is the confluence of two rich cultural heritages. The Sangmam has paved way for effective interaction and exchange of ideas between the two centres and it is well reflected in the joint initiative by Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and IIT-Madras, where IIT is providing online support to thousands of students from Varanasi in Science and Mathematics under the Vidya Shakti Initiative," added the PM.

He underlined that arriving in Kashi from Tamil Nadu simply meant traveling from one abode of Lord Mahadev to the other, namely Madurai Meenakshi to Kashi Vishalakshi.

PM Modi also recalled the placement of sacred 'Sengol' in the new Parliament building under the supervision of Aadinam saints reflecting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'.

"This flow of spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' is infusing the soul of our nation today," he said.

The PM expressed satisfaction over the rising interest of the youth towards ancient traditions as a large number of people, students and youth from Tamil Nadu were traveling to Kashi, Prayag, Ayodhya and other pilgrimage sites.

"Darshan of Lord Ram in Ayodhya, who established Rameshwaram along with Lord Mahadev, is divine," he added.

The PM also flagged off the Kanyakumari–Varanasi Tamil Sangamam train and launched multi-language and Braille translations of Thirukkural, Manimekalai and other classic Tamil literature on the occasion.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam, which will be held from December 17-31, will witness the participation of 1,400 dignitaries from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. As per an official statement, the state government has made all the arrangements for the delegates to visit Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

The first batch of the Tamil delegation comprising a group of students from various parts of the state named 'Ganga' reached Varanasi on Sunday.

Six more groups comprising teachers (Yamuna), professionals (Godavari), spiritual leaders (Saraswati), farmers and artisans (Narmada), writers (Sindhu) and traders and businessmen (Kaveri) will be reaching the city later to participate at the event. In addition, an exhibition showcasing the rich tapestry of art, music, handloom, cuisines and other products is also on the agenda.

The ancient link

- While inaugurating 2nd edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam in Varanasi, PM Modi sought to define ties between Kashi and Tamil Nadu
- He underlined that arriving in Kashi from TN meant travelling from one abode of Lord Mahadev to the other
- PM Modi recalled the placement of sacred 'Sengol' in the new Parliament building reflecting 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'
- He flagged off Kanyakumari–Varanasi Tamil Sangamam train and launched multi-language and Braille translations of Thirukkural, Manimekalai
- Kashi Tamil Sangamam (Dec 17-31) will have 1,400 dignitaries from TN and Puducherry

KOLKATA DIARY

PRANAB MONDAL
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No special convocation in Jadhav Univeristy

The state education department has granted Jadavpur University permission with certain riders to hold the annual convocation and not the special convocation that is usually held on the same day to confer DLitt and DSc degrees on distinguished persons. The university authorities had written to education minister Bratya Basu in the first week of December requesting permission to convene a meeting of the executive council, the highest decision making body of the institute, to discuss issues related to the 66th annual convocation and the special convocation. JU does not have a full term VC.

City's canal becomes dumping ground

Nearly 2.5 lakh tonnes of silt were picked up from a 7 km stretch of Tolly's Nullah, also known as Adi Ganga that flows behind chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence from the past one year when the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) started dredging the canal, said an official of the civic body. However, the official said the canal is still a happy waste dumping ground for people living along the waterway and suffers because of the direct discharge of untreated sewage. Pollution in Tolly's Nullah means pollution of the Hooghly since the canal drains into the river.

Kolkata civic body begins sewerage inspection

The state Pollution Control Board (PCB) and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) have started jointly visiting large residential and commercial complexes that are supposed to treat their sewage to check if the treatment plants are functioning. Officials of the civic body said they suspected many apartments and commercial complexes were not treating the sewage. Building rules of the KMC and ruled framed by the PCB have made it mandatory for buildings above a certain scale to treat their sewage. "We have started joint inspects with the PCB of large apartments and commercial establishments," said a KMC official.

Yadav puts up huge show on home turf

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

LONG standing tradition of no top minister (nation's Prime Minister, state's chief minister or any other minister) staying back in Ujjain – the land of Lord Mahakal – in the night, was broken by third time local BJP MLA-turned-new Madhya Pradesh chief minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Saturday.

Not only did Yadav hold a mega roadshow in his native city, but also stayed back at his home in Ujjain's Geeta Colony locality overnight on Saturday, before leaving for state capital Bhopal on Sunday morning.

"Why won't I stay back in Ujjain during the night. There is just one Raja (ruler) in Ujjain, which is Baba Mahakal. We're all his children and not any ruler, then why will I not stay back in Ujjain in the night," Yadav announced from the stage of the local BJP unit's program in Ujjain on Saturday evening.

"The tradition of any ruler not spending night in Ujjain (as the lone ruler of the ancient city was Lord Mahakal), actually dates back to the beginning of the 19th century. This was part of well thought strategy by then Ujjain rulers, the Scindia royal family to not only shift their capital from Ujjain to Gwalior, but to equally ensure that no other ruler captured the power in Ujjain, after the capital was shifted to Gwalior," Yadav maintained.

"I'm Lord Mahakal's son and servant and not a ruler, why will he get angry with me, he'll bless his son," Yadav added.

Importantly, for decades, no political ruler (head of government in MP or the centre) has stayed back in Ujjain city in the night.

Even if any head of government has stayed back in the city (which houses one of the 12 jyotirlingas at the world famous Mahakal Temple) in the night, it has been ensured that a particular leader/head of government spends the night out of the limits of Ujjain city.

"How can anyone say that Baba Mahakal's land is confined merely to municipal limits of Ujjain? Lord Mahakal is the king of the entire universe and doesn't merely rule Ujjain's municipal limits and we're his sons," he said.

According to the Mahakal Temple's priest Pandit Mahesh Mishra, "Though the new CM has stayed back in Ujjain city, it doesn't break the old tradition of heads of government leaving Ujjain after sunset, as Dr Yadav wasn't in Ujjain as the CM, but was there as the city's resident, son and sewak of Baba Mahakal."

No CM stayed in Ujjain overnight due to myth

For decades, no political leader (head of government in MP or the centre) has stayed back in Ujjain city in the night. Even if any did, it has been ensured that a particular leader/head of government spends the night out of the limits of Ujjain city.

Malwa-Nimar emerges as power centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

AGRICULTURALLY, the most fertile region of Madhya Pradesh and also famous as the land of 'Poha-Sev-Jalebi' – 66 assembly seats strong Malwa-Nimar region – has emerged as the political power center of the central Indian state's politics, after the recent assembly elections.

A fortnight after the assembly polls results, the stamp of Malwa-Nimar on the politics of MP is for all to see, as it's the politicians from the same western MP region, who will head the BJP and the opposition Congress in the state.

While the new CM Dr Mohan Yadav hails from Ujjain district (he's BJP's third time OBC legislator from Ujjain-South), one of his two deputy CMs – the seventh-time MLA from Malhargarh-SC seat (Mandsaur) and ex-finance minister Jagdish Dewda too hails from the same Malwa region.

Malwa-Nimar houses 66 out of the 230 assembly seats and eight out of the 29 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Steel magnate Jindal booked for rape in Mumbai, denies charge

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Mumbai police has registered an FIR against steel baron and managing director of JSW Group Sajjan Jindal after a 30-year-old woman accused him of raping her. Jindal has denied the charge. The FIR was registered on December 13.

"Deny these false and baseless allegations, committed to providing full cooperation throughout the investigation. As the investigation is ongoing, will refrain from commenting further at this stage," a statement from Jindal said.

The BKC police station in Mumbai said that based on the actress' statements, the accused Sajjan Jindal was booked under sections 376 (rape), 354 (assault or use of criminal force on a woman intending to outrage her modesty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. The complaint doctor-turned-actress claimed that she visited Jindal at his office around 7 pm in January 2022, where he allegedly raped her in the penthouse at Bandra Kurla Complex and promised to marry her.

'Cops didn't file FIR'

The complainant said when she approached the BKC police on February 16, 2023, the police put down a rough statement and didn't give any copy. No FIR was filed. After the actress filed a writ petition against the police in the Bombay HC, the FIR was filed

As per the FIR, Jindal told her not to shout because they were in his office building. She said despite her constant protests and refusals, Jindal forced himself on her.

The complainant said when she approached the BKC police on February 16, 2023, the police barely scribbled down a rough statement. "They didn't even give me a copy of the statement. No FIR was filed. Finally, on December 5, 2023, I filed a writ petition against the police in the Bombay High Court. After the court order, the FIR was filed," she said. She said she first met Jindal in October 2021 in Dubai when the two were in VIP box of a stadium, watching an IPL match. They later met at the wedding of MP Praful Patel's son.

Mystery hangs over killing of ex-Cong MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

MYSTERY shrouded the killing of former Arunachal Pradesh Congress MLA Yumsen Matey.

The 53-year-old, who served as the Khonsa West MLA for one term from 2009-14, was shot dead by an unknown assailant in eastern Arunachal's Tirap district near the Myanmar border on Saturday. He was preparing to contest next year's Assembly elections.

Inspector General of Police Chukhu Apa said the police were probing the case. "We can't say who is involved. We also do not know the motive behind the killing. An FIR has been registered and we are investigating," he said.

The slain former MLA had gone to a village close to the Myanmar border on Saturday. He was accompanied by his driver and two workers.

Governor Lt Gen (retired) KT Parnaik condemned the killing and called for strong action against those responsible.

Militant module to kill off-duty cops busted

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

POLICE on Sunday claimed to have busted a militant module tasked to killing off-duty policemen by arresting three hybrid militants, who had shot at and injured a policeman in Bemina of Srinagar on December 9.

"The plan of killing off-duty policemen was hatched by a designated terrorist Arjumand Gulzar alias Hamza Burhan, who is now in Pakistan. He hatched a conspiracy and arranged three persons to kill the off-duty policemen and also arranged pistols for them," Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain said while addressing a press conference here.

He said the mastermind of killing off-duty policemen here in Valley was Danish Ahmed Malla from Hamdaniya Colony, Bemina. Through him, Hamza recruited two more hybrid terrorists — Imtiyaz Ahmed Khanday and Mehnan Khan, both residents of Srinagar.

"These three persons in Srinagar managed to get pistols. They studied the movement of policeman Mohammad Hafiz Chak living in Hamdaniya Colony of Bemina. They followed his movement for several days. On December 9, they attacked the policeman Mohammad Hafiz at around 7 pm by firing six shots towards him from a pistol after the duty hours. Three bullets hit him and he is undergoing treatment in an army hospital, where doctors have termed his condition as stable. One of the bullet is stuck in his spine," the DGP said.

He said, "The bullets were fired by Imtiyaz and we have recovered the pistol. Recoveries have further been made during the questioning of the three and technical evidence. A Turkish-made pistol was recovered from arrested militant Mehnan Khan," he said. DGP said during the interrogation, police learnt that they had identified the targets.

Surat Diamond Bourse – how the mega centre came up

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

SURAT Diamond Bourse designer Sonali Rastogi and Manit Rastogi of Morphogenesis, say the project to build the impressive centre began in 2017 with a global design competition.

"The design brief called for the provision of a single-function office for the world's single largest community of diamond traders, the Saurashtra Patels of the state of Gujarat. We won the design competition and have now completed the project," they said.

In an interview, the two said their work draws from copyrighted design philosophy, SOUL, that encapsulates the key parameters – sustainability, Optimisation, uniqueness, and livability.

On what distinguishes the world's largest office building, they said Surat Diamond Bourse consolidates India's 70,000-strong diamond community within the world's largest single-office building. "The project exemplifies high-density office architecture and transcends global sustainability benchmarks," they said.

LARGER THAN PENTAGON
At over 7.1 million sq ft,
Surat Diamond Bourse is larger than the Pentagon, making it the single largest office building in the world
SDB is a seed building for the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City
Surat is known for processing over 92% of the world's diamond pieces
Thousands of workers endured daily commutes of 500 km travelling between Surat and Mumbai to engage in the trade

The building brings together India's vast diamond community under one roof, with independent and consolidated functioning for 4,717 offices ranging from 28 sq.mt to over 10,500 sq. mt. Its wide-ranging amenities include a sprawling 10,000 sq.mt food zone, a retail plaza, and over 8,000 sq.mt. of health and wellness, conference areas and banquet facilities.

It is built entirely by the diamond community for the community as a cooperative.

"With focus on sustainability, SDB consumes 50% less energy than the highest green benchmarks and features one of the world's largest radiant cooling systems," they said.

On whether there was any special design directions from Prime Minister Modi, the government, or industrialists, they said the diamond community in Surat itself came together to form a cooperative to create the self-sustained office space for their members. "The brief required us to address a very pertinent need – an office space for these traders in their own city, so they would not need to travel to Mumbai daily for work," they said. The challenge was accommodating the efficient and secure movement of over 65,000 people within the office.

The involvement of diamond traders and facility managers, who oversee the upkeep of the premises, was integral to the design team.

The building's design draws inspiration from Surat's sociocultural context and the highly efficient fishbone system of delivery, where people move from a central circulation spine into each of the nine office blocks in a time-efficient manner. The project is designed for maximum efficiency. With a focus on sustainability, SDB consumes 50% less energy than the highest green benchmarks and features one of the world's largest radiant cooling systems.

GAZA'S AL-SHIFA HOSP A BLOODBATH, SAYS WHO

Amid rise in shootings, Israel faces ceasefire calls from its European allies, including France, Britain and Germany

GENEVA

THE emergency department at the Al-Shifa hospital in northern Gaza, devastated by Israeli bombardments, is "a blood bath" and is "in need of resuscitation," the WHO said on Sunday.

A team from the World Health Organisation and other UN agencies was able to deliver medical supplies on Saturday to the hospital.

In a statement, the WHO said that "tens of thousands of displaced people are using the hospital building and grounds for shelter," and that there is "a severe shortage" of drinking water and food.

"The team described the emergency department as a 'bloodbath,' with hundreds of injured patients inside, and new patients arriving every minute," the organisation said, adding that "patients with trauma injuries were being sutured on the floor... (and) no pain management is available." The hospital is functioning at a minimal scale with very few staff and the WHO said "critical patients are being transferred to Al-Ahli Arab Hospital for surgeries."

Operating theatres are not working due to a lack of oxygen and supplies, and as per the WHO team, it is a "hospital in need of resuscitation."

Only 30 patients can receive dialysis daily.

Meanwhile, Israel's government faced calls for a ceasefire from some of its closest European allies and from protesters at home on Sunday after a series of shootings.

Palestinians loot a humanitarian aid truck as it crossed into the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Sunday | AP

In Israel on Sunday, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna called for an "immediate truce" aimed at releasing more hostages, getting larger amounts of aid into Gaza and moving toward "the beginning of a political solution." France's Foreign Ministry earlier said one of its employees was killed in an Israeli strike on a home in Rafah on Wednesday.

The foreign ministers of the UK and Germany called for a "sustainable" ceasefire, saying "too many civilians have been killed." "Israel will not win this war if its operations destroy the prospect of peaceful co-existence with Palestinians," British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock wrote in the UK's *Sunday Times*. *Agencies*

Israel busts 4km tunnel equipped with weapons

BEIT HANOUN

THE Israeli military said on Sunday it has discovered a large tunnel shaft in Gaza close to what was once a busy crossing into Israel.

The entryway to the tunnel is just a few hundred metres from the heavily fortified Erez crossing and a nearby Israeli military base.

The army said its special "Yahalom" unit, which specialises in tunnel warfare, has worked to excavate the tunnel since it was first detected. They say they've found weapons inside. The military said it stretches for more than 4 kilometres, links up with a sprawling tunnel network across Gaza and is wide enough for cars to pass through. The army said the tunnel facilitated the transit of vehicles, militants, and supplies in preparation for the October 7 attack.

Maj. Nir Dinar, a military spokesperson, said Israeli security services did not know about the tunnel before October 7 because Israel's border defences only detected tunnels meant to enter Israel. Dinar, who visited the tunnel on Friday, said it was twice the height and three times the width of other tunnels. *AP*

Russia, Ukraine attack each other with drones

KYIV

RUSSIA and Ukraine launched over a dozen drones at each other's territory for a second straight day on Sunday, one of which apparently targeted a Russian military airport.

At least 35 Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight over three regions in southwestern Russia, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Telegram.

Also Sunday morning, Ukraine's air force said it shot down 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched overnight by Russian troops in southern and western Ukraine, as well as one X-59 cruise missile launched from the country's occupied south.

Local residents stand among debris on the street outside a house destroyed as a result of a drone attack in Tairove in Odesa region on Sunday | AFP

A Russian air base hosting bomber aircraft used in the war in Ukraine was among the targets, according to a Russian Telegram channel. The channel posted short videos of drones flying over low-rise housing in what it claimed was the Russian town of Morozovsk, whose air base is home to Russia's 559th Bomber Aviation Regiment.

Vasily Golubev, the governor of Russia's Rostov province, separately reported "mass drone strikes" near Morozovsk region and another town farther west, but did not mention the air base.

Golubev said most of the drones were shot down and there were no casualties. He did not comment on damage.

A civilian was killed overnight near Odessa, after the remnants of a destroyed drone fell on his house, Ukraine's military said.

Russian shelling on Sunday also killed an 81-year-old man in central Kherson, according to the head of its municipal military administration.

Ukrainian and Russian forces exchanged fire outside Terebreno, a Russian village just kilometres from the Ukrainian border, according to Telegram posts by Gov. Vasily Gladkov. He did not provide details, but insisted Russian authorities had the situation "under control." *Agencies*

In latest migrant tragedy, more than 60 feared dead off Libya

CAIRO

A boat carrying dozens of migrants trying to reach Europe capsized off the coast of Libya, leaving more than 60 people dead, including women and children, the UN migration agency said. The shipwreck, which took place overnight between Thursday and Friday, was the latest tragedy in this part of the Mediterranean Sea. Thousands have died, as per officials. The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) said late Saturday that the boat was carrying 86 migrants when strong waves swamped it off the town of Zuwara on Libya's western coast and that 61 migrants drowned. "The central Mediterranean continues to be one of the world's most dangerous migration routes," the agency said. The EU's border agency said on Sunday that its plane located the deflated rubber boat Thursday in Libya's search and rescue zone. "The people were in severe danger because of adverse weather conditions, with waves reaching heights of 2.5 metres," the agency, known as Frontex, said. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **RAVALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY** S/o Venkataramana Reddy, Aged about 43 years, Residing at: No. 1, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, J.P.Nagara, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560078 is intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written from 1. Sri. G. VENKATESH S/o Late Gurappa, Aged about 66 years, 2. Smt. RAMAKKA W/o Sri. G. Venkatesh, Aged about 51 years, Both are Residing at No. 181, 1st Cross, Mylasandra Gate, Behind HP Petrol Bunk, Bangalore South, Begur-Koppa Road, Bengaluru-560068. Who represented that they have clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claims and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **SEVEN (7) days** from today, filing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Property bearing Site No's.180 & 181, Khatha No.74/6, Situated at Mylasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, totally measuring to an extent of 1200 Square Feet, along with R.C.C. Roofed building constructed thereon and commonly bounded as follows on the **East By :** Road, **West By :** Property bearing Site No. 190 & 191, **North By :** Property bearing Site No. 179, **South By :** Road,

M. ANANDA, Advocate
Roll No.KAR 1007/95, No.1431, Ground Floor, D' Souza Building, Begur Main Road, Near Sub-Registrar's Office, Begur, Bangalore-560114. Mob.: 9845343337.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **(1) SRI R. HARISH**, S/o Sri. G. Ramaiah, **(2) SRI R. HARIKISHORE**, S/o Sri. G. Ramaiah and **(3) SRI R. DHARMABUSHAN**, S/o Sri. G. Ramaiah, all are residents of No.5c, 605, 5th Cross, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043 and **(4) SMT R. MALINI**, W/o Gopinath, Plot No.81, 3rd Cross, Appavu Nagar, Thally Road, Hosur, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu - 635109.

In view of the above, anybody who has any manner of right or interest on the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the purchase; may file their objections in writing with documentary proof before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all sort of encumbrances, claims, mortgages and obligations and my client shall go on with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an agricultural land bearing Old Sy.No.47/1 and New Sy.No.47/1B, measuring 2 Acre 10 Guntas, situated at Yarthiganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the:

East by : Land of Munidurgappa ; West by : Land of Avalappa; North by : Lands of Muniramaiah and Chikkahanumappa ; South by : Road and Land of Happy Home:

PRABHAKAR L. SHETTY, Advocate,
No.6/3, Kumara Cot Layout,
Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Ph.No. 9448075994, Ph.No. 9980210500
DATE : 16.12.2023

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large are hereby informed that, my client had negotiated and agreed to Purchase the Schedule Property described herein below mentioned property from (1) Sri. Gangapatnam Chaitanya Son of Sri. G. Ravindra Reddy (2) Sri. Gangapatnam Sandeep Reddy Son of Sri G. Ravindra Reddy, (3) Sri. Harish Chekuru Son of Sri. Chekuru Lakshmi Prasad, (4) Sri. Venkata Sundeep Kumar Chowdary Karnati Son of Sri. Simhadri Naidu Karnati and (5) Smt. B. Ahalyamma Wife of Sri. B. Adisankara Reddy. As such any person/s/ Company / Bank / institution having any claim whatsoever over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to file their objections, claims along with supporting documents to the below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of this notification. If no objections / claims are received within the said period my client shall proceed to conclude the sale transaction as if there are no objections or claims whatsoever and my client shall be considered as bonafide purchaser of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential site bearing No.314 measuring East to West 60 feet or 18.28 Meters and North to South 40 feet or 12.19 Meters, in all measuring 2400 Square feet or 222.83 Square Meters, BBMP Katha No.285/314, carved out in Survey Nos.24/5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8, 25, 26/1, 2, 3B, 33/1, 34/1, 2, 35/1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 37/2, 3, 6, 38/1, 48/1B, 49/3, 50/4, 51/2, 52/1, 76/3A, 3B, 77/3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 78/2, 6, 79, 81/1 (PART, 85/8, 86, 87/1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 87/3, 4 and 88/5 situated at Nagavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, in the layout formed by the Vyalikaval house Building Co-Operative Society limited. And bounded on the: East by : Site Nos.289 & 290, West by Road, North by Site No.313, and South by : Site No.315.

Sd/- G. V. Anjaneya Gowda,
Advocate & Consultant,
#250, White City Layout, Seegehalli Village, Bangalore-560049. Mobile No.9900716419

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client has entered into an agreement of sale with the owner of schedule property, Smt. Vijetha.K., W/o Sri H.S. Anand, aged about 36 years, residing at GF-8, Chaithrashree Grands Apartments, Near Namma Sports, RR Nagara, Bengaluru - 560 098. Any person/s having any claim/s, whatsoever, in respect of the schedule property, is/are required to intimate the same to the undersigned with documentary proof, **within 7 days** of publication of this notice, failing which my client shall complete the sale considering that no claim/s exist in respect of schedule property. Any claim/s raised after 7 days will be deemed to have been waived of and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a vacant site bearing No. 175 (P-1), having CMC Khatha No.2040/175/(PH-I), New BBMP Khatha No. 2040/175/(PH-I)1874, formed by the Ideal Homes Co-operative Building Society Ltd., in Sector 'A' in the Ideal Homes Township Kenchanahalli /Halagevaderahalli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Rajarajeshwari Nagara Ward No.160, Bangalore - 560 098, measuring East to West (30+36)/2 feet and North to South (57+60)/2 feet, in total measuring 1930.5 Sq. feet and the entire property is bounded by:

East: Site No.174 **North:** Site No.181
West: Site No.176 **South:** 10th Cross Road
Date: 13.12.2023 **Place:** Bengaluru

Kantharaju.T. R Advocate.
No. 208, 1st Floor 7th Cross.
Cubbunpet Main Road
Bengaluru -560002. Mob : 9844017074.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II BANGALORE
No.1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

OA No. 760/2021

BETWEEN : BANK OF BARODA, Banashankari Branch ... **APPLICANT**

AND: Udaya Shankar .D and Ors ... **DEFENDANT**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO DEFENDANTS THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS No. 3, 4, 6, 7 AND 8

To, **DEFENDANT No. 3: Mr. Naresh Chand,** S/o. Late Muralilal, R/at. S-191, Greater Kailash Part-1, New Delhi-110 048.

DEFENDANT No. 4: Mr. Abdul Jameel, S/o. Late Abdul Jaleel, R/at. No. 219, 3rd Cross, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034.

DEFENDANT No. 6: M/s. Pruthvi Builders and Developers, Represented by its Managing Partner, Mr. P. Shankar, Having Office at No. 29/2, Second Floor, Senaipillai Complex, Hulimavu Gate, Bannergatta Road, Bangalore-560 070.

DEFENDANT No. 7: Mr. Photarmal Dinesh Kumar Jain, S/o. Shivaray, R/at. Flat No. 503, 5th Floor, Chikoti Garden, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500 016.

DEFENDANT No. 8: Mrs. Urmila Jain, W/o. Mr. Photarmal Dinesh Kumar Jain, R/at. Flat No. 503, 5th Floor, Chikoti Garden, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500 016.

Whereas, the applicant Bank has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of the Debts Due to Banks and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of sum of **Rs. 41,30,306/- (Rupees Forty-One Lakhs Thirty Thousand Three Hundred and Six Only)** with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs. You hereby required to show-cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **01/02/2024** at **10:30 A.M** in the forenoon in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in default of appearance, on the day mentioned herein above, the Proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on this 20/11/2023

By Order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

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IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU

C.Mis. No. 6393/2023

BETWEEN : 1. SOMASHEKHAR SIDDAGANGAIAH, S/o Late S. Siddagangaiah, Aged about 74 years, R/at. No. 81, 3rd Main, Vinayaka Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, **2. S. NATARAJA,** S/o Late S.Siddagangaiah, Aged about 72 years, R/at. No. 760, 11th Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarabhavi II Stage, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560 072, **3. NAGARAJA .S,** S/o Late S.Siddagangaiah, Aged about 70 years, R/at. No. 4/1, 14th Main, 1st 'C' Cross, Behind Balaji Petrol Bunk Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560 078, **4. CHANDRAKALA,** D/o Late S.Siddagangaiah, Aged about 68 years, R/at No.189, 7th Cross, Bapuji Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, **5. Mr. S. MAHESH,** S/o Late S.Siddagangaiah, Aged about 65 years, R/at No.57, Kengeri Hobli, Garaipura, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060, **6. RUDRASWAMY,** S/o Late S.Siddagangaiah, Aged about 62 years, R/at No.1461, Sagavani, 2nd Cross, Chandralayout, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072.

AND : 1. The Competent Authority for Delayed Registration of Birth & Death Office of the Commissioner, B.B.M.P, N.R.Square, Bengaluru - 560 001. ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

The above petition is filed under Section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969 to get the Death Certificate of **GIRIJAMBA W/o S.Siddagangaiah, died on 28.02.2020** at No. 760, 11th Main, Vinayaka Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072. The death certificate is required for Katha Transfer.

The General Public is hereby informed to appear before the 13th Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru and to file objection if any on the date **10.01.2024 at 11.00A.M.**

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court on this the 15.12.2023.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, XIII ACMM Court, Bengaluru City
Advocate for Petitioner : **Syed Alimulla,** Advocate. Mob : 9036376521

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

No: No. SEE/DCA/AO/AAO/PS/ **Date:16.12.2023**

NOTIFICATION

This notice is published to **Sri. Yatish Kumar R.,** Working as Senior Assistant, in BESCOM, C-6 sub Division, Bangalore, that you are absenting for duty from 19.07.2023 unauthorizedly without any intimation or prior approval from competent authority, causing which BESCOM works hampered, and you are breaking the KPTCL/BESCOM regulation. In spite of many reminders, notices, sent to your address as per Service Register, by Executive Engineer(EI), Malleswaram Division by Registered post but, the post office department has sent back by living a note as "No such person" and also your whereabouts not known. Hence, your are hereby instructed to report in front of the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this notification with genuine reason and relevant documents, for your unauthorized absence, or other wise the undersigned as well as disciplinary authority will take further disciplinary action against you, as per KPTCL / BESCOM norms, i.e. termination from the service without any further notices or intimation to you.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (EI.)
Bangalore North Circle and Disciplinary Authority.
No. 32/1, Crescent Towrs, 3rd Floor, Cresent Road, Bangalore-1.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/CMWD/SMG/AEE-2/2023-24/2633-637 Date: 15.12.2023

NOTIFICATION

(1) Name of the Project: Establishing 2X8MVA, 66/11KV Sub station at Jenugadde and Construction of 66KV DC LILO line from 66KV Chikkamagaluru-Balehonnur DC line to the proposed 66KV sub station at Jenugadde for a distance of 0.692Km in Chikkamagaluru Taluk and District on Partial Turnkey Basis.

(2) Proposed Line Length: 0.692 Km.

(3) Proposed 66KV Line Passing through areas:

DISTRICT: Chikkamagaluru, **TALUK:** Chickkamagaluru, **Hobli:** Kandya, **Village:** Jenugadde.

The above said work was completed and 66KV Transmission line was passed through above said villages & this new Transmission line will be charged **on or after 21.12.2023.** Hence, it is hereby informed to the Public that, the people don't tie the Cattles to the towers, don't throw any objects to the line & don't climb on towers. If anybody got injured by doing above mistakes, then that person will be held responsible directly.

This information given by the Executive Engineer(Ele), Chikkamagaluru Major Works division, Shivamogga & KPTCL will not be responsible for the same and no compensation will be paid by KPTCL.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Elecl, CMWD, KPTCL,
Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor, B.H. Road,
MRS Colony, Shivamogga-577203.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **Mr. Morusu Sreenath** S/o late venkataramaiah, residing at No.2384, 'E' Block, Sahakarnagar, Bangalore-560096.

In view of the above, anybody who has any manner of right or interest on the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the purchase; may file their objections in writing with documentary proof before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all sort of encumbrances, claims, mortgages and obligations and my client shall go on with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land measuring 30 [Thirty] Guntas bearing Sy. No.45/2 of Yarthaganahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the:

East by : Land in Sy.No.44; West by : Land in Sy.No.46; North by : Land in Sy.No.45/1; South by : Land in Sy.No.45/5:

PRABHAKAR L. SHETTY, Advocate,
No.6/3, 1st Cross, Kumara Cot Layout,
Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Ph.No. 9448075994, Ph.No. 9980210500
DATE : 16.12.2023

MAHAGENCO — Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd., invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested/ experienced/ reputed/ registered consultants/consulting firms (individuals/organizations) to empanel on the list of consultants for various technical and commercial consultancy work /Services Viz for RE business analyst, RE consultant for DPR, Bid& Contract, Design & engineering of RE, Battery Energy & Pump storage, Floating Solar, wind etc projects development of 5000MW capacity Renewable Energy Projects and Energy storage System in the state of Maharashtra.

The interested applicants may submit their proposal as per

1) Specifying company profile along with Name of Directors
2) Experience as per Qualifying Requirement.
3) Details of Technical & Administrative Staff with the Consultant/Consultancy firm.

The proposal from interested applicants may submit their documents with relevant details to this office on E-mail: **cespgd@mahagenco.in/dycespgd@mahagenco.in** and hard copy to:

O/o Chief Engineer (RE-P&P), 4 th Floor, A- Wing, HDIL Towers, Bandra (East), Mumbai – 400 051. Tel: 022-69415353/35/ Mob No. +917738501975 within 21 days from publication of this EOI.

Details of the EoI are available on MAHAGENCO's website (**www.mahagenco.in**) for free download.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-RE (P&P)

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TENNECO **TENNECO CLEAN AIR INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED**
CIN: U29308TN2018FTC126510 **Telephone: +91 2135 612501/506**

IN THE MATTER OF REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL OF TENNECO CLEAN AIR INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED UNDER SECTION 66 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2013 ORDER REFERENCE NO. CP/88(CHE)/2022 READ WITH IA (CA)/39 (CHE) 2023

Upon the application of Tenneco Clean Air India Private limited ("the Company") under section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 on 30th Day of June 2022 before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench ("Hon'ble NCLT"), the Hon'ble NCLT vide order dated 1st February 2023 and 23rd November 2023 in CP/88(CHE)/2022 read with IA (CA)/39 (CHE) 2023, approved the reduction of paid-up share capital of the Company and set out the minutes as below:

'The issued, subscribed and paid up equity capital of Tenneco Clean Air India Private Limited ('the Company') is henceforth INR 2,14,08,88,290/- (Two hundred and Fourteen Crores, Eight Lakhs, Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety) being 21,40,88,829 (Twenty-One Crores, Forty Lakhs, Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Nine) equity shares of INR 10 (Rupees Ten) each, reduced from INR 3,13,40,61,200/- (Indian Rupees Three hundred and thirteen crores, forty lakhs, Sixty-One Thousand, Two hundred) being 31,34,06,120 Equity Shares (Thirty-One crores, thirty four lakhs, Six Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty) of INR 10/- (Rupees Ten) each."

This notice is being published as per the directions issued by the Hon'ble NCLT for the notice of all the stake holders.

Date: 18.12.2023
Place: Chennai

For Tenneco Clean Air India Private Limited
Nadella Phani Kishor Rao
Director

TEXTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,

Authorised Officer/CEO's Details
Name: Srinivasa Murthy B.
MOB: +91 - 9972931077

Address of the Branch:
2nd Floor, Devanga Market,
Sree Devara Dasimayya Road, (J. M. Road)
Bengaluru-560002,
Phone: 080-48521054, 080-22231354
E-mail: textilecbl@gmail.com

Appendix: IV-A
[See Provison to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets (excluding movable assets, if any, laying in the premises) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to Rule 8(6) and 9(1)of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) and Legal Heir(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer/CEO of Textile Co-Operative Bank Ltd being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on **19.01.2024** for recovery of **Rs. 6,18,458/- (Rupees Six Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Eight Only) as on 01.12.2023 + interest on further cost thereon**.with future interest, costs expenses etc. due to the TEXTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD, Bengaluru from **1. Smt. Shalini D/o K. Balu and Late Smt.Elsy Also W/o Mr.Rajesh,Aged about 39 Years, 2. Sri. Manoj Kumar K. B S/o K. Balaraj alias Balu and Late Smt.Elsy** Aged about 44 years, **3. Smt. Priyalatha.B D/o K. Balaraj alias Balu and Late Smt. Elsy. D** Also W/o Mr.Jameenraj Aged about 42 years **1,2, & 3 are residing at:** # 173, 5th Cross, Bhovi Colony Pale Bhovi Colony, Bangalore 560029 **4. Sri Balu S/o Mr.Karappaiah**, Aged about 63 years No.23,5th cross,S.G.Palya Bangalore-560029.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.118,P.I.D No.63-161-118, situated at Ward no.63, Bhovi colony,Suddagunte Palya, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 18 feet and North to South 15.5 feet, and bounded on the: East by: Common Passage, West by: Property No.116 North by: Property No.119, South by: Property No.54.

DETAILS OF E-AUCTION

Reserve Price	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Last date and Time of EMD Submission	Bid Multiplier	Date and time of e-auction
Rs.7,62,500/-	Rs.76,250/-	18.01.2024 up to 4.00 PM	Rs.25,000/-	19.01.2024 From 11.30 AM to 12.30 P.M.

The Authorised Officer/CEO shall have absolute discretion to cancel the e-auction at any point of time, without assigning any reason.

For detailed terms and conditions of the E-auction sale and for E-Auction tender document containing online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration etc, please refer to the link provided in M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd. https://www.bankeauctions.com

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 13.12.2023

Sd/-
Authorized Officer/CEO

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka State. INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25589113 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No: PCB/251/SEO/MINES/EPH/2023-24/4907 DATE: 13/12/2023

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Shantha Steel & Power Pvt. Limited., has proposed for Expansion of existing10 MW Thermal Power Plant to Integrated Steel plant with comprising of 2 x 250 TPD DRI (Sponge Iron- 1,65,000 TPA), 3 x 18 TPA Induction Furnace with LRF & AOD (Hot Metal-2,13,840 TPA), 1 x 13.5 MVA SAF (Charge Chrome – 45,000 TPA), 600 TPD Rolling Mill (TMT Rolled products – 2,03,150 TPA), 15 MW AFBC & 10 MW WHRB captive power plant in an existing land area of 50 Acres (20.235 Ha.) at Sy. Nos. 16, 17/1, 17/2 (Kenchanadoni Village), Sy. Nos. 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6 & 28/7i (D. Hosahalli Village), Koppal Taluk& Koppal District, Karnataka.

As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project Proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) F. No. J-11011/147/2021-IA.II (I) dated: 20.09.2022 and Modification of ToR dated:09.03.2023 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and request letter of the project proponent dated:01.09.2023 and Regional Officer, Koppal letter dated: 08.11.2023 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address: M/s. Shantha Steel & Power Pvt. Ltd., Kenchanadoni Village & D. Hosahalli Village, Koppal Taluk & Koppal District- 583 203.

2. Location of the proposed expansion project : Sy. Nos. 16, 17/1, 17/2 (Kenchanadoni Village), Sy. Nos. 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6 & 28/7i (D. Hosahalli Village), Koppal Taluk, Koppal District.

3. Details of proposed expansion project: proposed for Expansion of existing 10 MW Thermal Power Plant to Integrated Steel plant with comprising of 2 x 250 TPD DRI (Sponge Iron- 1,65,000 TPA), 3 x 18 TPA Induction Furnace with LRF & AOD (Hot Metal-2,13,840 TPA), 1 x 13.5 MVA SAF (Charge Chrome – 45,000 TPA), 600 TPD Rolling Mill (TMT Rolled products – 2,03,150 TPA), 15 MW AFBC & 10 MW WHRB captive power plant in an existing land area of 50 Acres (20.235 Ha.)

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date: 19.01.2024 (Friday) Time: 11.00 AM Place: Project area, M/s. Shantha Steel & Power Pvt. Ltd., Sy Nos. 16, 17/1, 17/2 (Kenchanadoni Village),Sy Nos. 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6 & 28/7i (D. Hosahalli Village), Koppal Taluk, Koppal District.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal District, Koppal. (c) District Industries Centre, Koppal District, Koppal. (d) Taluk Panchayath Office, Koppal Taluk,Koppal District. (e) Gram Panchayath Office, Kenchanadoni Village, Koppal Taluk.(f) Gram Panchayath Office, D. Hosahalli Village, Koppal Taluk. (g) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Koppal. (h) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zonal Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. i) **HELP DESK,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, Koppal). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

₹1.5 lakh cr have been infused by foreign portfolio investors into the Indian equity markets in 2023.

All you need to know about revised bank locker agreements

The new bank locker rules, which will be effective from Jan 1, 2024, require banks to maintain clear waitlists for locker allocation, and enhance security measures

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

People from all walks of life use bank lockers to store their valuable items like jewellery and documents securely. Banks provide enhanced security measures like surveillance cameras, alarms and restricted access, reducing the risk for theft or damage.

Earlier customers often faced issues like lack of transparency in locker allotment, security concerns, and unclear liability terms for locker contents.The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2021 after the Supreme Court ruling changed several guidelines with respect to bank lockers.

In 2021, a Supreme Court ruling clarified the responsibilities and liabilities of banks and their locker users. The new regulations redefine the bank-user relationship as lessor and lessee. Customers can use lockers for legitimate purposes, but storing cash, weapons, drugs, or hazardous materials is prohibited. Banks may inspect lockers if they suspect illegal substances. Customers are responsible for key/password misuse, while banks must exercise reasonable care. The new rules do not mandate higher fees, and banks will bear documentation costs.

The RBI has introduced a phased renewal process for bank locker agreements. Account holders who submitted their agreements on or before December 31, 2022, must sign a revised agreement and submit it to their bank branches by December 31, 2023.

Banks are responsible for facilitating the execution of new or supplementary agreements, which may involve arranging stamp papers, electronic execution, franking, e-stamping, and providing customers with a copy of the executed agreement.

Earlier this year, according to reports, a woman in Udaipur lost ₹ 2.15 lakh when termites attacked the currency notes in the locker. Unlike such cases, the bank will still bear the responsibility for the safekeeping of the locker contents provided they are permissible items.

RULES YOU MUST BEAR IN MIND

RBI's new guidelines for bank lockers clarify responsibilities and liabilities for both banks and customers

Customers can use lockers for legitimate purposes, but storing prohibited items like cash, weapons, drugs, or hazardous materials is not allowed

Banks may inspect lockers if they suspect illegal substances, while customers are responsible for key/password misuse

Banks will bear the responsibility for safekeeping locker contents, provided they are permissible items

THE NEW BANK LOCKER RULES EFFECTIVE FROM **JANUARY 1, 2024,** INTRODUCE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IMPACTING CUSTOMERS

Liability of banks in case of loss

According to the new rules, the liability of a bank towards a loss faced by the user due to the bank's negligence will be up to 100 times the prevailing annual locker rent, excluding any damage or loss due to natural calamities. The bank shall not be liable for any damage and/or loss of contents of locker arising from natural calamities, earthquake, floods, lightning and thunderstorm or any act that is attributable to the sole fault or negligence of the customer.

Banks shall, however, exercise appropriate care to their locker systems to protect their premises from such catastrophes, according to RBI rules. It is the responsibility of banks to take all steps for the safety and security of the premises in which the safe deposit vaults are housed. It has the responsibility to ensure that incidents like fire, theft/ burglary/ robbery, dacoity, building collapse do not occur in the bank's premises due to its own shortcomings, negligence and by any act of omission/ commission.

According to Jyoti Prakash Gadia, MD at Resurgent India, "The new bank locker rules effective from January 1, 2024, introduce significant changes impacting customers. ..The new RBI rules address these by requiring banks to maintain clear waitlists for locker allocation, enhancing security measures including digital records of access, and clarifying liability terms in case of damage or loss due to bank negligence or natural disasters. These changes aim to make the locker system more transparent, secure, and fair, mitigating common problems faced by customers."

"Customers may, however, initially face some inconveniences such as the need to comply with stricter security protocols and possibly higher costs due to the term deposit requirement for new locker rentals," Gadia added.

According to a survey conducted by LocalCircles, with most banks having increased locker charges by 100-300% in the last 3 years and increasing KYC requirements significantly, out of 11,870 responses, over one-third of respondents indicated that they have surrendered their bank locker.

The data shows that while 36% of respondents have 'shut the locker' in the last three years; 16% have been 'paying the higher rate and complying with the KYC requirements but will soon shift to smaller lockers'; 4% of those surveyed indicated that they have 'been paying the higher rate and complying with the KYC requirement but will soon shut the locker'.

"In sum, troubled by the increased KYC requirements and sizable increase in bank locker charges; 56% of locker holders have either already shut it or are planning to shut or shift to a smaller, more affordable locker soon," LocalCircles report said.

According to one of the bankers with a public sector bank who didn't want to be named, said, "Bank lockers are generally safe. However, banks are not liable for the stuff inside lockers as we just rent out lockers."The only issue is that when things inside lockers are not insured. So in case of a robbery or something you can not claim bank's responsibility, the banker added.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW 'SOFT LANDING' IN AMERICA AFFECTS YOU

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHEN the United States of America sneezes, the world catches the flu. However, when it does well, the world is better off too. The US Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell hinted at potential policy rate cuts 2024. The stock market construes that as an indicator that the interest rate cycle has peaked. That means the inflation outlook for the US economy is benign and probably closer to the target of 2% after it peaked at over 9% over the past 12 months. An aggressive hike in interest rates brought inflation in the US economy under control.

Experts worldwide were concerned about the state of the US economy in the context of high-interest rates and slowing economic growth. There was a possibility of a recession in the US, with growth stagnating due to the high cost of money. However, the US economy seems to have dodged the recession bullet. The US Federal Reserve believes that there is adequate momentum in the US economy to create jobs.

With inflation under control, America will likely have a 'soft landing' that will not cause a global ripple effect. If the US economy continues to create jobs and imports more goods and services, that is good news for the rest of the world. Many countries rely on exports to the US for growth. A calm debt market, including India, is good news for the world economy. As global inflation subsides, interest rates can be cut to stimulate economic growth. That could mean US businesses can spend more on expansion and consume more goods and services than before. That is good news for Indian companies exporting software services and other manufactured goods to the US.

What it means to your money

The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee is watching these developments closely. In last week's meeting, the committee left key borrowing rates unchanged. The committee expects the consumer price inflation in India to remain firmly above 5% in 2023-24. It is expected to subside only in the first half of 2024-25. That means high-interest rates are here to stay. Internal and external factors influence India's inflation.

Food inflation is a critical internal factor. With weather patterns affecting the harvest season, the RBI is closely monitoring food prices. As crude prices remain volatile, external factors come into play in determining the inflation trajectory. The interest rate you pay on loans is linked to the inflation of consumer prices in the economy.

The change in the US interest rate cycle affects the global money supply. Stock markets in America are surging in anticipation of those rate cuts. Global money managers watch the interest rate cycle closely. When interest rates peak, they switch from a 'risk on' strategy to a 'risk off' one. That means more money could enter emerging markets or non-dollar assets. The year ahead could see a strong rally in the first quarter across markets. India's equity markets are already at a record high. Most analysts predict a 12-15% growth in share prices in 2024. That means you need to be watchful. Share prices in India may rally along with the rest of the world, but they will eventually lead to a realistic valuation. Expect volatility in equity markets to intensify in 2024.

SOURAV ROY

The rate-cut cycle will start in America and continue in the rich world. In India, that could happen with a lag. India's inflation dynamics are linked to domestic factors more than external ones. With general elections slated for May 2024, policy uncertainty will remain till the new government takes office.

In light of these changes in global interest rate cycles, you may want to engage with your professional advisor and identify appropriate assets to invest. Over the next two years, your choice of assets will be necessary. You must understand the implication of falling interest rates on government bond prices. Typically, falling interest rates trigger gains in the net asset values of gilt funds. You may miss a relatively risk-free investment idea in the euphoria of equity markets.

MONEY-WISE

INVEST SOME OF YOUR SAVINGS IN DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I'M in my early 50s and have about ₹2, 40,00,000 in savings. I tend to stick to bank FD and PPF accounts, as I was scammed in the past. What's the safest way for me to invest this money? I will be retiring in 2029, is this amount sufficient? My wife is a housewife, and I have a daughter (for whose marriage I have some other FD not included in the above). Needless to say I do not have any pension and I have medical insurance.

Answer:

Your urge to play it safe is perfectly understandable. You already know from bitter experience that there are people out there who prey on investors by conning them outright or putting them into investments that are not suitable for their situation, and expensive to boot. Having said that, you must also learn about the risk of inflation. At age 58 when you retire, you are looking at a possibility of living till 100.

The financial markets can be scary, even when you're investing in legitimate investments. For example, you can invest in a GILT fund (which invests only in government securities!) and lose money when interest rate changes. Even though the share market has been going smooth since rebounding from the financial crisis, and has been hitting new records of late, at some point share prices will tumble big time. Why? because that is the nature of the markets.

The reason is that bank fixed deposits alone might not provide the returns you will need in REAL TERMS i.e. after inflation and taxes to maintain your purchasing power throughout a post-career life that could last 40 years!

This means that to avoid having your standard of living slip over a long retirement, you need to invest some of your savings in a diversified portfolio of equity and debt funds. Still, investing in a portfolio of mutual funds—ideally, will improve your chances of earning returns that can stand up to inflation and taxes over the long term. You should be taking a 10-year view on the equity investments and a 5-year view on Income funds.

I would think your ₹29 lakh in PPF should remain there till you are past 60 for sure, and maybe past 80 too! You'll still want to invest enough in such products to handle any outlays for emergencies and to cover, say, 5-6 years living expenses.

And assuming you do decide to invest in a portfolio of equity and debt funds, you want to be sure to do so in a way that balances risk and return in a way you are comfortable with.

You want enough equity in your portfolio to generate returns that can help maintain the current lifestyle, and increase the chances that savings will last as long as you do. A big equity portfolio might also scare you into bailing out shares when it falls say 8% in one month! It can be frustrating for a beginner, and scary of course. Your portfolio should be able to eat well and sleep well too!

Most newcomers who come into equity at a late age in life restrict their equity holdings to somewhere between 30% and 60% of their overall portfolio. There are others who will go for a higher or a lower percentage. Get an advisor and decide on your portfolio mix. See what works. Are you able to sleep well?

ZEE seeks date extension for merger with Sony

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) on Sunday sought an extension in the December 21, 2023 deadline of its proposed merger with Culver Max Entertainment (CMEPL), formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India.

ZEEL had approached Culver Max and Bangla Entertainment Pvt Ltd (BEPL) for an extension in the deadline to complete the proposed merger, which will create India's biggest media conglomerate, said regulatory updates.

"We hereby inform you that under the Merger Cooperation Agreement dated December 22, 2021, entered into amongst the Company, BEPL and CMEPL, the Company has requested CMEPL and BEPL to extend the Date required to make the Scheme effective, as per the terms of the Merger Cooperation Agreement," ZEEL said. CMEPL is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Sony Group Corporation (SGC). BEPL is also an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of SGC and a part of the SGC Group. The proposed $10-billion merger of ZEEL, BEPL and CMEPL has received regulatory approvals from fair trade regulator CCI, bourses NSE and BSE, shareholders and creditors of the company.

In August this year, the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) also gave a go-ahead to the merger of ZEEL and Culver Max Entertainment. Earlier in September 2021, then Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) and ZEEL had entered into a non-binding term sheet to bring together their linear networks, digital assets, production operations and programme libraries.

Number of GST return filers up 65% to 1.13 crore in five years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

The Finance Ministry on Sunday said that the number of GST return filers rose about 65% to 1.13 crore in 5 years till April 2023.

The number of active taxpayers registered under GST too increased from 1.06 crore as of April 2018 to 1.40 crore.

As per data shared by the ministry, 90% of eligible taxpayers are filing GSTR-3B returns by the end of the filing month in current fiscal year, up from 68% in 2017-18.

"Simplification in Rules and Procedure in GST has resulted in increase in return filing percentage by eligible taxpayers," the ministry said in a post on X.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The number of GSTR-3B filers increased from 72.49 lakh in April 2018, to 1.13 crore as of April 2023. GSTR-3B is the monthly return form for filing outward supplies details and tax payment. "With effective policy and systemic changes in GST, the compliance level in GST return filing has improved over the years," the ministry said in another post on X.

Increase in return filing across the years indicates improvement in compliance level, the ministry added. Monthly collection from GST came in at ₹1.68 lakh crore in November. It is for the sixth time that gross GST collection has crossed ₹1.60 lakh crore mark in current fiscal.

The GST collection has been showing an upward trend on an annual basis since its rollout on July 1, 2017, and the average gross monthly mop-up in the current fiscal so far is ₹1.66 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in the Lok Sabha earlier this month. The collection had touched a record ₹1.87 lakh crore in April.

PVR Inox focuses South market for expansion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

Given the high movie consumption in South India, multiplex chain PVR Inox continues its expansion in the South market with the opening of its first multiplex in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.

PVR INOX said it will strengthen its foothold in Tamil Nadu with 139 screens in 23 properties. It continues expansion in the southern part with 549 screens in 98 properties.

Ajay Bijli, Managing Director, PVR Inox Limited, said, "We are delighted to strengthen our foothold in Tamil Nadu with the opening of the first multiplex in the city of Cuddalore. The launch of the new 3-screen multiplex at Cuddalore aligns to our vision of accelerating growth in underserved markets".

"At PVR INOX, we are paving the way for expanded access to entertainment in untapped markets with cutting edge technologies, world class ambience, opulent comfort and exciting range of F&B options," said Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Executive Director, PVR Inox Limited.

Nirmal Bang in its recent report said the next 2-3 quarters (3QFY24-1QFY25) are going to be muted partly due to lack of material Hollywood content for the multiplex chain. "Even if Dec'23 is as strong as Aug'23, we think EBITDA for 3QFY24 will likely show a steep decline QoQ (50-55%) from the record levels seen in 2QFY24." It added, "while a bulk of new screen openings (40-45%) are going to be in South India, we really doubt whether the bargaining power would shift to PVRL in the next five years." PVR Inox is the largest film exhibition company with 1712 screens across 359 properties in 114 cities (India and Sri Lanka).

Ramkumar to lead Indian challenge against Pakistan

A six-member Indian team has been picked for the Davis Cup World Group I Play-off Tie against Pakistan in Islamabad from February 3-4. The team, picked on Saturday, includes **Ramkumar Ramanathan**, N Sriram Balaji, Yuki Bhambri, Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha, Saketh Myneni and Digvijay Pratap Singh, who is a reserve player in the squad.

Some paranoia, some suspicion: Fear & loathing inside world of chess

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

UKRAINE'S Pavel Eljanov was being given the once-over by the arbiter at the Chennai Grand Masters event. At some level, this sort of screening process with a metal detector — something similar to a security check at an airport — has become common in all chess events since Magnus Carlsen accused Hans Niemann of cheating in an over-the-board game at the Sinquefield Cup last year. Even if Niemann has been cleared of all charges by the authorities, the legacy of that incident continues to live on in all chess events, big or small.

For the record, allegations have existed for at least the last 50 years. But it's become mainstream in recent times thanks to the Niemann-Carlsen incident. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) have put in place certain measures to ensure players don't have outside help. Nobody outside the playing hall will know the current state of games. Live streams are no longer live; the ongoing event, like most other big chess meets, is being broadcast with a 15-minute delay. This wasn't the case with the Chess Olympiad in Mamallapuram last year.

According to FIDE deputy-president, Viswanathan Anand, delays could be a way of life going forward. "More and more time delays," he said when elaborating on the issue on Saturday. While the streaming audience worldwide will be affected, it's a small price to pay to ensure the integrity (journalists who are covering the event from the venue aren't supposed to tweet the result till 15 minutes after completion of the game). Screening the player, too, would be commonplace.

"More security controls, more screenings... It's quite tedious for someone who's quite used to walking into a tournament and making a move. On the other hand, you do understand the importance of this."

Arjun Erigaisi (R) in action against Alexandr Predke | D SAMPATHKUMAR

ERIGAISI PREVAILS IN DRAWN OUT ENDGAME

Arjun Erigaisi prevailed over Alexandr Predke in a drawn-out endgame to keep alive his Candidates chances. With the win, the 20-year-old joined three people on 1.5 points after three rounds. It was the only win on Sunday meaning Sanan Sjugirov and P Harikrishna top the leaderboard with two out of three points.

MONDAY'S MATCHES Gukesh vs Predke, Eljanov vs Erigaisi, Aronian vs Harikrishna, Maghsoodloo vs Sjugirov

Levon Aronian understood why these measures have been installed. "It has to happen, it's inevitable," he said after his first-round match on Friday. "It (deployment of anti-cheating measures) has happened in every other sport. We are no better or worse. It has to be there."

It being there is one thing. The allegations have given rise to something else entirely. "Paranoia," as Aronian, nicknamed the Armenian Lion, called it." It (do you ever get suspicious that the person sitting opposite to you within handshaking distance is relying on technology) happens a lot. Sometimes, it's paranoia. Sometimes, you feel there's something not right. We can't really go around saying that our opponents are not fair. At the same time, if these measures are not taken, it's too much pressure for the players as well.

The fissures created by Carlsen's allegations still run deep, more than a year on. While P Harikrishna doesn't namecheck the Norwegian, he felt players shouldn't run their mouths without having evidence. "There were some cases in the past but not to the extent where a player accused somebody without providing significant evidence," he had said after the Opening Ceremony. "Today, the problem is 'anybody can accuse anybody and that's not a good thing'. Obviously we need a safe environment to feel secure. At the same time, it is quite exaggerated. Some players are quite obsessed with it."

All three of Anand, Aronian and Harikrishna maintained that they refused to go down the road of suspecting their opponents. "I don't think in that direction," Harikrishna said. "Sometimes, your opponents can have a good day and may end up playing well over their level."

Anand has never allowed himself to wonder about the integrity of his opponent as it can 'quickly lead to a negative spiral'. Ironically, Anand himself was involved in one of India's most high-profile cheating cases in chess in recent times when Nikhil Kamath, an Indian entrepreneur, beat him in an online game in a charity match (Kamath admitted to cheating).

"I generally try not to go down this road," he said. "As a player, it can get uncomfortable once that thought is in your head. You can't keep an accusation like that in your head and still be objective."

To help ease genuine concerns about fairplay, FIDE takes all matches that have been flagged to mathematicians, statisticians and people with access to very good engines. "I don't pick a chess game that has an allegation and use my judgment. You give it to the computer and map it out statistically. We have people we work with. They examine these allegations and come out with a report (it was one such report that exonerated Niemann)."

On Monday, in the fourth round of the event, the players will leave their phones outside. Before entering the playing hall, the arbiter will scan them with a metal detector. A new day but a reminder of where chess is right now.

Pacers Arshdeep & Avesh dominate proceedings before Tamil Nadu youngster Sai Sudharsan shows promise on India debut with a fifty

GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

WHEN Tamil Nadu's B Sai Sudharsan made that scintillating 96 for Gujarat Titans in the 2023 IPL final against Chennai Super Kings, he was the talk of the town despite the team in yellow winning the title. Almost every cricket expert who watched him bat was of the opinion that it is only a matter of time before the left-handed batter played for the country.

Less than six months on, Sai Sudharsan found himself in the hot seat — with Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma opting out for the series, the Tamil Nadu batter was called up to the Indian team for the 50-over format — opening for India against South Africa in the first ODI played in Johannesburg on Sunday. And as he has done throughout his career, Sai Sudharsan did not disappoint, scoring an unbeaten 55, helping India secure an eight-wicket win.

Opting to bat first, South Africa were bundled out for 117, thanks to Arshdeep Singh's five-wicket haul. The left-arm seamer ran through the Proteas top-order, a blow from which the hosts never recovered, as India dominated the proceedings from ball one. Chasing a tricky target in conditions that had some assistance for the bowlers, Ruturaj Gaikwad got out early, but Sai Sudharsan, along with Shreyas Iyer, ensured India got across the line. What helped him is the experience of playing the red-ball game with India A team and gathering as much information as possible about the conditions before arriving in the Rainbow Nation. Right from the first ball he faced, which was driven through covers for a boundary, Sai Sudharsan looked at home. "I mean it's (wicket) a bit different from India, there is extra bounce and pace off the wicket.

B Sai Sudharsan scored unbeaten 55 off 43 balls to guide India home | AFP

Brief scores: South Africa: 116 in 27.3 ovs (Arshdeep Singh 5/37, Avesh Khan 4/27) **lost to** India 117/2 in 16.4 ovs (Sai Sudharsan 55 n.o, Shreyas Iyer 52).

So I feel before coming here (ODI) I played India A game, so I had time to adjust to the wickets. I gathered as much information as possible about the conditions here," he said after the match.

Former India cricketer WV Raman was all praise for the TN cricketer who has grown from strength to strength since stealing the limelight in the 2021 Tamil Nadu Premier League. "It is pleasing and delightful to see a youngster playing his first game in South Africa and give a good account of himself. Sai has made rapid progress at all the levels he has played. This innings will go a long way and help his cause because not only he has the skill sets but he has a great attitude to complement his skills. I am confident that this is just the start of what is likely to be a big long career," said the former coach of the Indian's women's team.

Raman, the first Indian to score an ODI century in South Africa, knows a thing or two on how to adapt to the conditions there. "Things have changed in South Africa over the years from the time I played. But the fact remains that South Africa have some good fast bowlers in their ranks. Playing in conditions which are not familiar to you is always challenging. I am glad to see that he (Sai) has overcome the challenge," said the former Tamil Nadu captain.

One of the things everyone who has tracked Sai Sudharsan's career speaks about is his work ethic and hunger to improve, to become the best in the business. And with the Indian team likely to go through a transition in the ODI format before the 2027 World Cup, the selectors and the team management are going to see who fits well at the top of the order. Sai Sudharsan has made a good first impression in that regard, but this is just the beginning. There will be challenges ahead as he continues to play more at the highest level. However, Raman believes that the youngster will be up for it. "International cricket is always tough. There will be areas where you need to keep working on in today's era, where people are bisecting your game. One needs to constantly work on his game and also skill sets and Sai has the right attitude to do that," signed off Raman.

Rower Dattu back in national camp after 3 years

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

THE 2018 Asian Games gold medallist rower and Olympian Dattu Bhokanal's life has been full of twists and turns. The rower had experienced the highest of highs before touching the lowest ebb. However, what makes him different is his never-say-die attitude. No matter how big the challenge is, he has always managed to find a way out of it.

The 32-year-old from Maharashtra added yet another chapter to his series of comebacks when he made it to the national camp after three years into oblivion. The camp, which will see Indian rowers prepare in their bid to qualify for the 2024 Olympics, is scheduled in Hyderabad from December 24 to January 26. "I am happy to see him make a comeback. Salute to his grit and determination," Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, president of the Rowing Federation of India (RFI), told this daily. It was Dattu's silver medal in single sculls at the 2023 National Games that made his return to the national fold possible. Having taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Army, Dattu represented his state at the meet. He also started a rowing institute in his state to hone skills of the upcoming athletes.

Given his modest background where making ends meet was no less than a struggle, Dattu rose to prominence when he qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics. Representing the country in the sporting extravaganza, he created history when he finished 13th in single sculls, the best result by an Indian rower at the Games then. He added yet another feather to his cap when he clinched gold in quadruple sculls at the 2018 Asian Games.

However, things went south since then as Dattu got embroiled in controversies with the RFI slapping a two-year ban on him in 2019 for allegedly not finishing the single sculls race at the 2018 Asian Games. What made the matter worse was an FIR registered against him for harassing and cheating his former wife in 2019. He rode out the storm and even made it to the national camp as the Bombay High Court quashed the FIR in 2019 and RFI lifted the ban the next year. But he again walked into trouble by the end of the year as his insistence on getting leave from the national camp meant the Army Rowing Node (ARN) ordered his return to his unit, Bombay Engineer Group & Centre in Pune. "If you ask me what kept me motivated, I'll say I always believe in putting things into perspective. There were times when I was riding high on success and there were also times when I was facing criticism as nothing went my way whether it was personal or professional front," Dattu told this daily.

The call-up has given him a new lease of life and Dattu thanked RFI and its president for reposing the faith on him. "I am thankful to the RFI and president Rajlaxmi ma'am for giving me a chance to stake a claim for the 2024 Games. After the 2016 Olympics, this is yet another opportunity for me to win laurels for my country."

As many as 11 rowers have been picked for the national camp. These campers along with others will now compete in the senior nationals scheduled at the ARN, Pune from January 28 to February 3. The RFI will then select the medallists or four best-placed rowers of the nationals for another camp before conducting selection trials closer to the Olympic Qualification Regatta.

The Olympic qualification criteria mean only one boat from the country will make it to the Paris Games. Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh, the in-form lightweight double sculls rowers, are expected to give Dattu a tough fight. Making the cut wouldn't be easy for the veteran rower but given his history, Dattu cannot be discounted as well. As has been the case in the past, one can expect him to take his best step forward when he joins the camp and script yet another fairytale in the days to come.

TABLE-TOPPER

Sourav Kothari (PSPB; right) won his maiden senior national 15-Red snooker crown, beating Paras Gupta (UP; left) 6-2 in the final in Chennai on Sunday | D SAMPATHKUMAR

EXPRESS READ

Ramandeep clinches WBC India title

HYDERABAD: Punjab's Ramandeep Kaur clinched the WBC India title in the light flyweight division by eking out a split decision win over eight rounds against Mamta Singh from Haryana. The Indian Boxing Council-sanctioned event showcased 10 fights including two title fights — WBC India & WBC Middle-East at the Gachibowli Stadium.

Sathish pockets Odisha Masters title

CUTTACK: India's Sathish Kumar Karunakaran secured his maiden BWF super 100 title after outwitting Ayush Shetty 21-18, 19-21, 21-14 in the men's singles final at the Odisha Masters here on Sunday. Indian pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila secured the mixed doubles title.

Indian women go down to Belgium

VALENCIA: The Indian women's hockey team suffered its second consecutive defeat by going down 1-2 to Belgium in the 5 Nations Tournament here. Ambre Ballenghien (22') and Louise Versavel (37') scored for Belgium. Meanwhile, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (56') scored the only goal for India.

Ishan pulls out of SA Tests, Bharat replacement

CENTURION: Indian team's wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan will not be a part of the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa as he has flown back home due to personal reasons. Kona Bharat, who is currently in South Africa as India 'A' skipper, has been inducted into the main squad.

Test playing nations can help expand longest format for women

KALYANI MANGALE @Mumbai

2004 — that is when New Zealand, Pakistan, and West Indies women last played a Test match. For South Africa, that year was 2007 before their hiccup-like revival in the format — first against India in 2014 and later against England in June 2022. Ireland played their first and only Test in 2000. Bangladesh and Zimbabwe women have never played a Test among the full-member nations. Afghanistan do not have a women's team since the Taliban government took over.

After a hesitation over a long period, India are finally coming around to the idea of playing more Tests than they previously did. This leaves England and Australia, these two countries that have played 52 Tests between themselves over 89 years.

This is the reality of women's cricket. Some have done it because it's the tradition. Some are slowly finding their way. Some have decided to accept the invitations, while others have ignored the format like junk email that keeps piling in one's inbox.

For many years, especially in women's cricket, the pattern was set. Australia would come up with something. England followed it, but none of it became big or mattered enough until India got involved. Take, for example, franchise cricket. Women's Big Bash League, one of the earliest attempts to start a professional league based on the models of men's cricket, started in 2015. England followed it with the Women's Super League in 2016. Later, the England and Wales Cricket Board started The Hundred for women along with men in 2023. However, the record-breaking valuation and broadcasting numbers didn't get attached to this type of league till BCCI started the Women's Premier League in 2023.

Which is why, India's involvement becomes necessary if more Tests are to be expected in the women's game. One of the legitimate reasons given for women from many cricketing nations not playing the red-ball fixture is lack of funds. However, these teams could adopt the multi-format points system followed in the Ashes. Teams who cannot afford to host Tests could play these fixtures at least when they are visiting countries that are playing the format regularly like England, Australia, or India. If one could keep the results aside for early years, these teams will get some opportunity to play in the format.

The recent India-England Test could begin a new chapter in women's game

With the franchise leagues and bilateral series in these three countries, players from all over the world have played in India, England and Australia on multiple occasions. There is always a chance to start it with one team against one of the three regular Test-playing nations.

For example, if West Indies play a Test in English conditions, India can play one against New Zealand or Australia can host a Test against Pakistan. Several stalwarts of the current generation like Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, Stafanie Taylor, Nida Dar, Bismah Maroof and Chamari Athapaththu have dominated white-ball cricket throughout their careers. However, they have not played a Test despite expressing their desire to do so on multiple occasions. Other than the three nations and South Africa, none of the other teams have seen their current players don whites.

For many, a Test is a luxury. Even men's teams cannot afford to host a lot of Tests. The governing bodies have also turned to the shortest format to expand the game beyond the ICC full member nations and rightly so. But while expanding the game, at least those who can host a Test and not have a dent in their finances can do so. And it wouldn't be new. In the past, England have hosted men's Tests between Pakistan and Australia. India have helped Afghanistan host a few Tests against West Indies and Ireland. Here, it's not even helping two other entities play a Test. One of the playing teams can always be the home team.

The joy of playing Test cricket is unmissable. Smiling Ellyse Perry from the Ashes earlier this year or Harmanpreet Kaur from the recent fixture against England are proof of that. That joy should not be limited to a few lucky ones.

If those who can afford to make it happen for others take it seriously, playing a Test could be a reality for many legends of the women's game. Whether they will, only time will tell.

Arsenal win to go top

AGENCIES @London

ARSENAL beat Brighton 2-0 to go top in the Premier League while Liverpool were held 0-0 by Manchester United at Anfield on Sunday.

Aston Villa, fresh from potentially season-defining wins against Manchester City and Arsenal, came from behind to beat 10-man Brentford 2-1.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal dominated at the Emirates, wasting a succession of openings but they finally broke through in the 53rd minute. Brighton defender Jan Paul van Hecke jumped to head a corner away but could only flick it into the path of Gabriel Jesus, who headed the ball into an empty net. Kai Havertz doubled the lead for the Gunners in the closing minutes.

Arsenal's Kai Havertz rejoices after scoring against Brighton | AFP

Results: Arsenal **2-0** Brighton; Brentford **1-2** Aston Villa; West Ham **3-0** Wolves; Liverpool **0-0** Manchester United.

Barcelona held

VALENCIA: La Liga champions Barcelona dropped more points in the Spanish title race in a tense 1-1 draw at Valencia on Saturday.

MENAKA GURUSWAMY
Country: India
Achievement: Advocate in historic LGBTQ+ rights case
Education: National Law School of India University, University of Oxford, Harvard School of Law
"To advocate for those who cannot tell their own stories, to defend those whose freedom is in peril, to prod a nation to ask of itself, for whom am I and for what I was created?"

DY CHANDRACHUD
Country: India
Achievement: Chief Justice of India
Education: Faculty of Law at University of Delhi, Harvard School of Law
"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy"

INDU MALHOTRA
Country: India
Achievement: First woman Supreme Court judge from the Bar
Education: Faculty of Law at University of Delhi
"History owes an apology to the members of this (LGBTQ+) community and their families, for the delay in providing redressal for the ignominy and ostracism that they have suffered through the centuries"

KAPIL SIBAL
Country: India
Achievement: Senior advocate and politician
Education: Faculty of Law at University of Delhi
"Sedition involves sloganeering with incitement. It may be anti-national, but not a crime, unless you incite violence or communal tension"

NLUS VS NON-NLUS
WHERE DO THE DIFFERENCES LIE?

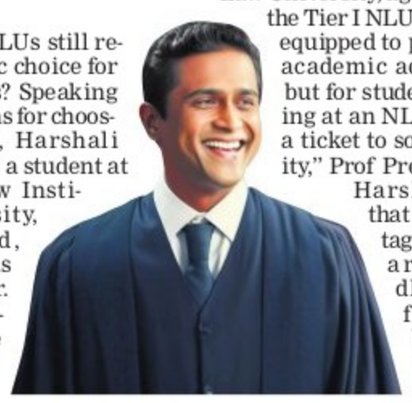
Abhipsa Mohanty explores answers by speaking to a Supreme Court advocate and experts

LEGAL education in India has evolved immensely, and many players have entered the field. A broad classification can be safely made between National Law Universities (NLUs) and non-NLUs, the latter including deemed and private universities, government colleges, and private law schools. "A comparison between NLUs and non-NLUs is similar to a comparison between the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other Engineering colleges," says researcher-academician Prof GB Reddy of University Law College, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

order, order

In vogue

Is this why NLUs still remain a classic choice for law aspirants? Speaking out her reasons for choosing an NLU, Harshali Sulebhavikar, a student at National Law Institute University, Bhopal, said, "For me, it was the fee factor. NLUs also provide state scholarships and easy access to secure internships and placements at law firms. And of course, for many students, the NLU tag is an alluring factor."



A dedicated placement cell at NLUs, which offers direct recruitment and internships in law firms and other circles, is a big attraction for students, opines Tanvi Dubey, a practicing advocate in the Supreme Court of India, who teaches at various law colleges, including both NLUs and non-NLUs, as a guest faculty.

There are a few downsides too

The academics and opportunities are not brilliant at all NLUs, Harshali says, and Prof Prerna from NALSAR Law University, agrees. "Only the Tier I NLUs are better equipped to provide the academic advantages, but for students, studying at an NLU becomes a ticket to social mobility," Prof Prerna says.

Harshali feels that the advantages of NLUs are dwindling. "The fees have been hiked. NLU Bangalore now charges about ₹3 lakh, while private colleges charge around ₹4 lakh. The faculty and teaching standards have also gone down at a few NLUs," she says.

Did you notice a shift?

In this scenario, Advocate Dubey points out that over recent years, she has seen a shift from NLUs to private universities. "Some of them have tie-ups with summer schools and universities abroad, and offer good opportunities," she says.

"Private universities, especially the corporate and deemed universities are giving tough competition to NLUs. Though the fees are high, more and more students prefer them," adds Prof Reddy. "They have diverse faculty, offer diverse courses and are doing really well," Prof Prerna says.

Varsities of repute

Speaking about legal education in central and state universities, Prof Reddy says that they are lagging behind in terms of professionalism, though the faculty is wonderful and law departments in universities and affiliated law colleges are fundamentally very strong. "There still exists a notion in many colleges that students who do not get admission elsewhere and are not serious about studies take admission in law; it is a license to lodging and boarding," he laments.

Nonetheless, Harshali mentions that studying at a university would have provided her with a multi-disciplinary approach, as students there would get to learn from and collaborate with faculty and peers from other departments. Notably, many central and state universities have retained top positions in the 2023 NIRF ranking for Law.

Which type of college to choose, then? "At the end of the day, only your performance matters," says Advocate Dubey. "In a court, the judge recognises your performance; what college you took your degree from is of no consequence. If you know the laws, ground rules and court craft, you are in the game," she adds.

When the exam factor comes into play for students

Despite all arguments, another factor that attracts students to NLUs is the ease of securing admission, according to Harshali. "You have to write just one entrance test for NLUs, whereas each university or college conducts its own test and the process becomes tedious," she says.

Prof Prerna, however, mentions that CLAT is not free from demerits. "It is conducted in English, and equips mostly English-medium students to ace it, excluding others. It is also elitist and the exam fee is expensive, resulting in the exclusion of many students who cannot afford it."

CHOOSING THE BEST FOREIGN VARSITIES

Confused about which foreign universities are the best for legal studies? Let's look at what the 2023 QS World University Rankings say

Rank 1: Harvard University, Cambridge, US
Rank 2: University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Rank 3: University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
Rank 4: Yale University, New Haven, US
Rank 5: Stanford University, Stanford, US
Rank 6: New York University, New York City, US
Rank 7: London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK
Rank 8: Columbia University, New York City, US
Rank 9: University of California, Berkeley, US
Rank 10: University of Chicago, Chicago, US

PURSUING A LAW DEGREE ABROAD

Wish to study law abroad? These are the two entrance tests you might want to take:

1 **Law School Admission Test (LSAT):** The test is widely accepted in many countries other than India, primarily in the US and Canada. It is an international-level exam conducted by Pearson VUE on behalf of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), for LLB and LLM programmes

2 **National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT):** This test is meant for students who wish to pursue LLB courses abroad, especially in the UK and Europe. It is administered by the University of Oxford

Besides these, several universities abroad conduct their own entrance exams for admission to law courses. Students need to go through the websites of their chosen colleges thoroughly to understand the selection criteria

JUSTICE LEILA SETH (LATE)
Country: India
Achievement: First woman Chief Justice of a state High Court
"Bring up your sons like your daughters so that they learn tenderness"

ARUN JAITLEY (LATE)
Country: India
Achievement: Former Finance Minister and Supreme Court lawyer
Education: Faculty of Law at University of Delhi
"If some student belonging to weaker section of society suffers distress, humanity says it must be addressed"

NAVANETHEM "NAVI" PILLAY
Country: South African of Indian Tamil origin
Achievement: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; first non-white judge of High Court of South Africa
Education: Harvard Law School
"That is the nature of human rights advocacy, to speak truth to power; to confront privilege and entrenched hierarchy with an unshakeable belief in human dignity, equality and freedom"

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR (LATE)
Country: United States
Achievement: First woman US Supreme Court justice
Education: Stanford Law School
"As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it"

SADIQ AMAN KHAN
Country: United Kingdom
Achievement: Mayor of London
Education: Law degree from University of North London
"Legal aid is central to righting wrongs and rectifying injustice"

VERY MANY TYPES OF LAWS

many kinds

CIVIL LAW
- **Deals with disputes between individuals or organisations**

Key areas: Contracts, property, family
Workplace: Law firms, corporate legal departments and government agencies
Earnings: Varies based on experience:
Entry-level: Around ₹5-8 lakh per year
Senior lawyers: About ₹15 lakhs per year
Famous lawyer: Nani Palkhivala
Famous case by Palkhivala: Kesavananda Bharati v The State of Kerala — a case that outlined the structural doctrine of the Indian Constitution

CRIMINAL LAW
- **Addresses offences against the state or public**

Key areas: Defending/prosecuting criminal cases and legal research
Workplaces: Public prosecutor's office, criminal defence firms and legal aid
Earnings:
Entry-level: Around ₹3-5 lakh per year
Experienced lawyers: ₹8 lakh+ per year
Famous lawyer: Ram Jethmalani
Famous case by Jethmalani: Jessica Lal v Manu Sharma — A high-profile criminal brought to trial in India through media activism

RELIGIOUS LAW
- **Derived from religious texts or even doctrines**

Key areas: Personal matters and family law (marriage, divorce, inheritance cases) based on religious principles
Earnings: Can vary widely
Entry-level: ₹4-6 lakh per year
Experienced lawyers: ₹10 lakh+ per year
Famous lawyer: Zia Mody
Famous case: Mohd Ahmad Khan v Shah Bano Begum (1985) — a landmark case for addressing maintenance for divorced Muslim women, sparking debates on personal laws

CORPORATE LAW
- **Governs businesses and commercial transactions**

Key areas: Company law firms, in-house legal departments, contracts, mergers, and acquisitions
Earnings:
Entry-level: ₹6-10 lakh per year
Experienced lawyers: ₹15 lakh+ per year
Famous lawyer: Harish Salve
Famous case: The Liver Doctor v Himalaya Corp — a recent case where a doctor's X account was suspended following his alleged defamatory posts against the products of the company

Common Law: Where can you pratice it

The common law is a legal system that has its roots in traditional English law that relies on precedents. The judges interpret and apply law based on past decisions and lawyers build cases using precedent, differing from civil law systems

STUDENTS who study law in India typically practise law within the country. However, there are certain limitations and considerations when it comes to practising law in other countries. Here are a few general points to keep in mind:

Practising in India

- Indian law graduates can practise law in India after their legal education and obtaining the necessary qualifications, such as enrolling with the Bar Council of India (BCI).
- The legal profession in India is regulated by the BCI and one needs to adhere to its rules and regulations to practise law here.

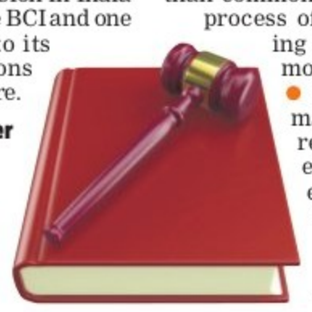
Practising in other Common Law jurisdictions

- Indian law graduates may have the chance to practise law in other common law jurisdictions like the UK, Australia, Canada, and parts of the US.
- To practise in these jurisdictions, they need to meet additional requirements, such as completing a qualifying exam and obtaining a recognised postgraduate qualification

Practising in Civil Law jurisdictions

- In civil law jurisdictions, where the legal system is based on a different framework than common law, the process of practising law can be more complex
- Few countries may have specific requirements or exams for foreign-educated lawyers to be eligible to practise law within their jurisdiction.

court time



Practising International Law and corporate practice

- A few Indian law graduates may find opportunities to work in the field of international law or corporate law with multinational companies. In such cases, an understanding of international legal principles and business practices is vital.

Limitations of practising abroad

- **Language barriers:** In a few countries, proficiency in the local language may be a requirement for practising law.
- **Recognition of qualifications:** The legal education and qualifications obtained in India may not be necessarily recognised in other countries.
- **Cultural and legal differences:** Legal systems and cultural norms vary between nations and understanding these differences is crucial.

NELSON MANDELA (LATE)
Country: South Africa
Achievement: Anti-apartheid revolutionary and former President
Education: Studied law at University of Fort Hare and University of Witwatersrand
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

RUTH BADER GINSBURG (LATE)
Country: United States
Achievement: US Supreme Court Justice and women's rights advocate
Education: Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School
"A gender line... helps to keep women not on a pedestal, but in a cage"

DR BR AMBEDKAR (LATE)
Country: India
Achievement: Chief architect of the Indian Constitution
Education: Doctorate in law from the London School of Economics
"Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence"

MAHATMA GANDHI (LATE)
Country: India
Achievement: Indian independence leader and advocate of nonviolence
Education: Studied law in London
"Be the change that you wish to see in the world"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (LATE)
Country: United States
Achievement: 16th President and self-taught lawyer
Education: Self-taught, no formal legal education
"Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth"

DHIRENDRANATH DATTA (LATE)
Country: India
Achievement: Lawyer and politician
Education: Law graduate
"Courage is the first quality of an undivided man"

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18•12•2023
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Epimetheus found

On this day in 1966, Richard Walker discovered Epimetheus, Saturn's moon. Audouin Dollfus observed a moon 'Janus' the same year

ORIGIN

Epimetheus and Janus may have been formed by the break-up of one moon. It could have happened in the life of the Saturn system and they have grooves, similar to Phobos

CHARACTERISTICS

Epimetheus is a potato-shaped moon with a mean radius of 58 km, It has several craters larger than 30 km, including Hilairea and Pollux

TRIVIA

The name comes from Greek god Epimetheus (or hindsight), the brother of Prometheus (foresight). Together, they represent humanity

A curated guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

THE DESI PICTURE

He was all praise for city-based iD Fresh Food, and the IISc...Former RBI governor Dr Raghuram G Rajan, who was in B'luru to release his book, on the need to bring back top Indian talent from the worldover

VIDYA IYENGAR

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

> *This country needs to spend more money...on universities and education, which will encourage many to stay in the country*
>
> – Dr Raghuram G Rajan, former RBI governor

IT'S forty-five minutes past five on Friday and there's a wait line extending beyond the entrance of the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. For a book launch, such interest is often unusual, but the book in question – *Breaking the Mould* (Penguin, ₹799) – is of a different calibre altogether, given that it is authored by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor **Dr Raghuram G Rajan**, and economist Rohit Lamba. Dressed in a black suit sans tie ('unnecessary for the intellectual Bengaluru audience', he quips) Rajan is quite candid when we catch up with him during the signing of his book, notwithstanding the serpentine queue.

Despite the book being quite critical of India's economy, and Rajan ruing earlier in his session that there is not a single Indian-manufactured product that is sold worldwide, he points to the success of Bengaluru-based iD Fresh Food's founder PC Mushtafa, who spotted idli batter being sold at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB), in a sachet with a rubber band to hold it, which led to the creation of his company. "So, if we put our minds to it, we can do it," Rajan says, as he paints a hopeful picture of the India story – including that of Tilfi, a luxury handicraft clothing brand, which has been working with Benaras saree weavers. "That's a traditional activity with the sarees being sold around the world, an IP that was created in India. Old-time weavers were reluctant to move from designs they already had, but Tilfi had the ability to market and was able to provide them with designs, different from the old hackneyed ones. So it got branded with no room to copy designs," Rajan says.

But this picture of the country also has some grim realities to contend with, including divisive majoritarianism. So the questions he raises through the book are: Where is India going today? Is it surging forward, having just overtaken the United Kingdom to become the fifth-largest economy in the world? Or is it flailing, unable to provide jobs for the millions joining the labour force? What should India do to secure a better future?

Several Indians are in top jobs the worldover, and it's important to bring them back, suggests Rajan. Is there something more the professor of Finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School, who didn't go on for a second term as RBI governor, trying to imply? The answer is not clear cut, but Rajan points to China, which is bringing back native talent to universities. "This country needs to spend more money to make more money, for instance, on universities and education, which will encourage many to stay in the country. In fact, we are noticing that not as many students are coming for the Master's and Ph.D these days," he says, pointing out the need for more intellectual contributions, something the Indian Institute of Science has experimented with.

Speaking of India as a growing country rather than an aging one, Rajan bats for a creative environment, where one is not 'hounded out'. "Part of the problem is the poverty of imagination," he says, leaving the audience to ponder.

STAGE SUCCESS

Bengaluru-based billionaire-entrepreneur **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** took to X to express her happiness after watching Lillete Dubey's directorial play *Gauhar* based on the life of Thumri singer Gauhar Jaan. Mazumdar-Shaw posted a picture and said, "A wonderful performance...highly recommended."

The play, adapted from Vikram Sampath's book *My name is Gauhar Jaan!*, was performed on Saturday.

A still from *Gauhar*

XPRESS FOCUS

JCB HYDROGEN MACHINE MAKES TRADE SHOW DEBUT AT EXCON

JCB unveiled its pioneering hydrogen combustion technology at EXCON, India's premier construction equipment trade show taking place in Bengaluru. In its first-ever trade show appearance anywhere in the world, the JCB hydrogen-powered backhoe Loader prototype, part of a £100 million investment, was unveiled alongside JCB's unique hydrogen combustion engine.

Speaking at EXCON earlier today, JCB India's CEO and Managing Director, Deepak Shetty said: "It is fitting that this 3DX backhoe Loader, powered by a hydrogen combustion engine, is being unveiled in India just as COP28 draws to a close in Dubai. As the world has been assessing its collective progress towards achieving its climate goals, JCB is showing it has a practical and affordable technology in place to decarbonise construction, both in India and across the world."

Shetty added: "India's concerted efforts towards making hydrogen a zero-carbon fuel of the future is creating the conditions for a hydrogen ecosystem through the National Hydrogen Mission. JCB India is proud to be taking the lead in introducing this hydrogen combustion technology to India, made possible because of the vision of JCB Chairman Lord Bamford, who has been the driving force behind the development of the technology."

In advance of the EXCON exhibition, JCB Chairman Lord Bamford said: "India has a real opportunity to put hydrogen at the very centre of its net zero future – it is a clean zero carbon fuel which can be produced from renewable energy. India is endowed with sun and water resources, the two key elements required for producing hydrogen. It is a fuel that allows for fast refuelling and is a mobile fuel solution, in that fuel can be taken to the machine. Our machines work long hours, particularly in India, so minimising downtime to recharge or refuel is essential. Hydrogen is a perfect solution for India, particularly for the earthmoving sector."

Lord Bamford added: "Fossil fuels are not the future. Developed from first principles, the JCB hydrogen engine has been designed to optimise the combustion of hydrogen, so that it can deliver the same power, the same torque, and the same efficiency that powers JCB machines today, but in a zero-carbon way."

Prototype JCB hydrogen engines are already powering backhoe Loader and Loadall Telescopic Handler machines under test conditions in the UK.

Shetty concluded: "Visitors to EXCON will see Asia's first construction machine, powered by a hydrogen combustion engine. We are witnessing the beginning of an exciting zero-carbon future in India's earthmoving sector, and hydrogen combustion will be at the heart of that future."

JCB's Machinery Excellence

JCB India has the largest range of Backhoe Loaders in the industry. At Excon the new 3DX Xtra with Servo Controls was displayed. The machine offers excellent ease of use for operators to work continuously for longer durations without fatigue. The machine has effortless gear shifting with an easy shift feature.

The 3DX Plus 4WD with a High Dump Bucket & Extending Dipper and the 3DX Super were also showcased. The 3DX Plus 4WD machines offer 20% better Fuel Efficiency in front-loading applications. The High Dump shovel facilitates the machine to load materials up to 4.0m from the front shovel and is best suited for loading & high body truck loading applications. The new extending dipper provides an additional 1.0m deeper reach over the standard 4.77m dig depth. The machines have an Eco-mode for lower Fuel Consumption and a Plus mode for Higher Productivity.

The 3DX Super has 10% better fuel efficiency and comes with several unique features like Auto Stop, Auto idle, Digital display, Guide me home, SOS switch, etc which increases the Safety, Comfort & Efficiency. There are several attachments on display to showcase the versatility of JCB Backhoe Loaders.

In Excavators, where JCB has made significant investments in its range, it introduced the new JCB 345LC HD Tracked Excavator, a high-performance machine with a powerful 221 HP engine. Designed to work in hard strata, it features a new Heavy-duty Deep section boom and arm with cast pivots for durability. With proven hydraulic aggregates, heavy-duty undercarriage, an engine with an inline fuel injection system and extended service intervals the new JCB345LCHD offers high uptime and low maintenance costs.

The company also exhibited the NXT 225LC M tracked excavator with a mechanical fuel injection system. It comes fitted with a power boost feature, a heavy-duty bucket and eco-hydraulics along with 'Intellicontrol' and has 10 different power modes giving 5% higher fuel efficiency & 5% output. Also introduced was the new NXT210LC Tunnel Master, a solution designed for Tunnelling applications. The dig end has been designed and adapted to work in a Tunnelling environment in confined spaces. The Tunnel Master machine augments the application-related solutions to the customers enabling India's infrastructure development.

The new NXT 205 with 8% improved fuel efficiency; with eco-hydraulics along with 'Intellicontrol' it has 10 power modes offering high fuel efficiency and productivity was also showcased.

In the smaller range of compact Mini Excavators, the JCB 18Z along with the JCB 19C-1E Electric Mini Excavator were showcased. The 19C is a Zero-Emission machine and has four Lithium-ion batteries that power the machine for a full day on a single charge. With a significant focus on Safety and Productivity, JCB's 2GO system safely isolates all controls as a Secondary Safety System. Its Auto-idle and Auto kick-up redistribute power to preserve battery life.

The 18Z is designed to work in tight spaces in Urban as well as Rural applications. Available with a retractable undercarriage feature, the 18Z can enter areas with 1.0m width making it easy to work in confined areas.

In the Material Handling segment, JCB India launched the 540-180 HiViz, an 18m reach Telescopic Handler. It is powered by a 55 kW JCB ecoMax 444 engine without the need for engine after-treatment and has a maximum lift capacity of up to 4 Tons. It has a precise high-speed double boom chain extension system to maximise job site efficiency and has a Q-fit mechanism for a quick change of 30+ attachments that makes the machine multipurpose. The machine comes with an air-conditioned, 360° high-visibility global design cabin with ROPS & FOPS.

JCB also displayed two Wheeled Loading Shovels, the first being the 437-4 which comes with a JCB ecoMax 448 engine and an Automatic ZF Transmission. It has an improved fuel efficiency of up to 10% as compared to the previous model; with extended service intervals, this machine is also lower on maintenance cost. The 455-4 has a Cummins engine and ZF Axles & Transmission. With an increased output of up to 5% in Power mode and a fuel efficiency improvement of up to 10%, as compared to the previous model.

The VM 117 Soil Compactor which is powered by a 55 kW JCB ecoMax 444 engine without the need for engine after-treatment was displayed. The machine is up to 10% more fuel-efficient as compared to the previous model. It has high productivity, reliability and operator comfort that make it a preferred choice for Compaction needs.

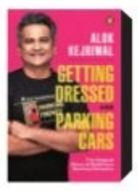
The company's CPCB IV+ Gensets with Intelli SYNC technology were also on display. The 60QI CPCB IV+ is the first machine of this next-generation series. It is powered by a class leading JCB 4.4 L engine offering 16hrs per day running capability at 100% load. It has a compact size, of 2.5m and comes with an "Intelli SYNC" option that provides freedom to add multiple gensets as compared to a single large genset. It is India's 1st full-band EMI/EMC compliant Diesel Genset. JCB also presented the 125QI CPCB IV+, which at 2.7 m is the smallest 125kVA Genset.

With more Urban Infrastructure being created and for applications such as Solid Waste Management and Material handling JCB also had the JCB 155 Skid Steer on display. The machine has a Unique Monoboom design with a Side door for safe entry and exit. It has an enhanced 270 degrees visibility and has the largest cabin by volume.

Additionally, the Articulated Scissors and Boom Lift in Electric Range for Smart Infrastructure and Urban Applications were also showcased. These made in India machines have been designed considering safe operations at height as per customer applications. The range from 19ft to 45ft was on display which included the S1932E, S3246E, S4550E and the A45E machines.

> **Excon is the festival of the Construction Equipment Industry in India. It is an opportunity for us to showcase our Innovative products for our Customers and our Stakeholders. This has been possible due to the relentless efforts in Innovation that JCB has always made. These "Made in India" products are also an embodiment of the vision of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat" as in addition to the domestic market in India, they are also exported to over 130 countries around theworld.**
>
> - Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director, JCB India

BOOK NOOK



Getting Dressed and Parking Cars

By Alok Kejriwal

The book is an adrenaline-charged, minute-to-minute, nail-biting business adventure of Alok Kejriwal's fourth entrepreneurial venture – Games2win. Games2win is a start-up that has been creating online games.

Restless Lives

By Harish Bhat

It's easy to get caught up in the rush and overlook the small, everyday moments that shape our lives. The lines within these pages promise to both please and disturb, inviting moments of pause, inspiration, and stirring emotion. In this beautifully crafted poetry collection, Harish Bhat offers a refreshing perspective on modern life.

Kashmir

By Manreet Sodhi Someshwar

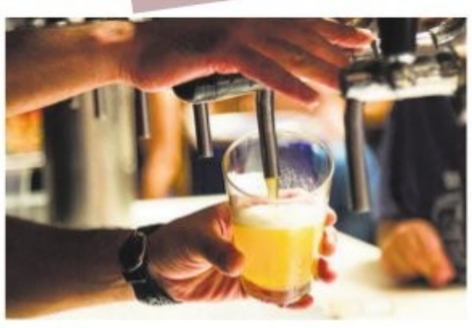
Kashmir is the thrilling conclusion to The Partition Trilogy that began with Lahore and continued with Hyderabad. Barely two months into independence, the two new nations are pitched into battle. The first Indo-Pak war begins, upending the subcontinent forever.

The Pig Flip

By Joshy Benedict

In Kerala, the village men play spot flip - the king of all card games. Babycha, a gambling addict tries to wean himself off the game. Until, inevitably, he succumbs to the lure of spot flip and loses everything. Soon, his family is forced to take measures to rein him in.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



Groovy Tuesday

Gather for a lively groove night with DJ Hassan's beats and experience a musical journey with vibrant tunes, delicious brews and an electrifying atmosphere.

WHEN: Dec 19, 8pm
WHERE: Happy Brew, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Laugh Riot

Get ready to laugh your heart out at this side-splitting comedy night with Bengaluru's comedy group the Blackbuck Comedy.

WHEN: Dec 19, 8.30pm
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista Art Café, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clayful Creations

Develop skills in both hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques through this pottery workshop via hands-on experience under the guidance of an instructor.

WHEN: Dec 18, 10am
WHERE: Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Cooking Therapy

Indulge in a fun cooking workshop to make pure vegetarian chocolates, cupcakes, cookies, and doughnuts.

WHEN: Dec 19, 11am
WHERE: Anjali Cooking School, Jayanagar
DETAILS: 9448925759

Poetic Expressions

Join the Write Out Loud Poetry Evening where poetry enthusiasts come together to share their creative expressions, celebrate the beauty of language, and explore the depths of human emotions.

WHEN: Dec 19, 7.30pm
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Art Lessons

Learn painting on canvas using acrylic paints at this art workshop and meet like-minded people.

WHEN: Dec 18, 4.30pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comic Drama

Watch the play *Refund* where a middle-aged man demands a refund from his school, declaring himself a life failure.

WHEN: Dec 19, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ravindra Kala Kshethra, Sampangi Rama Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DIVINE RHYTHM

Students perform Vrindavana Devi, a Purandara Dasara Kruthi, during the Art of Giving programme on Saturday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

SOYA NUGGETS

Contributed by **Surkhab Khan,** Lucknow

INGREDIENTS

- **Boiled potato, peeled and mashed:** 3
- **Grated bottlegourd:** 100 g
- **Soya granules:** 100 g
- **Bengal gram flour:** 100 g
- **Red chilli powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Coriander leaves:** 1 bunch
- **Green chilli:** 3
- **Salt to taste**
- **Lime juice:** 2 tsp
- **Oil for deep frying**

METHOD

- In a bowl, mix all the ingredients except oil. If you have soya chunks at home, soak them in hot water for about 30 minutes. Squeeze the excess water from the chunks and grind it to make soya granules.
- Mix it well and make small patties.
- Heat the oil in a wok. Deep fry the patties till golden brown and crisp. Keep the flame low to medium while frying. Fry 4-5 patties at a time. Soya nuggets are ready to eat. Serve hot with any sauce of your choice.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

KNEELING POSE

This is a foundation pose, balancing the body on the knees. It is included in Power Yoga sequences to strengthen the legs, core, pelvic floor, lower back, and spine along with the knee joint. It can be a wonderful pose for working professionals or sportspeople.

STEPS

- Start in Dandasana (Staff Pose), take a few breaths.
- Inhale. bend the right leg bent at knee, place the right foot close to the buttocks. Exhale. Inhale and raise the buttocks off the floor to place the foot below the right buttock and sit on the right foot, exhaling completely.
- Inhale, bring the left foot below the buttocks, with toes touching each other and heels apart. Seated in Vajrasana with your hands on the thighs, take a few breaths. Raise your spine, push your lower back onto the heels below you.
- Inhale, stand on your knees while raising your body away from the heels. Engage your core by pushing your navel to the spine. Roll down your shoulders. Avoid tilting the pelvis. Keep knees, hips, and shoulders in one line.
- Stand on your knees, with your hands by the side of your body. Stay here for six breaths or as per capacity.
- Ensure knees and ankles are in a straight line.
- Keep facial muscles relaxed, focus on breath and steadiness of the body.
- Exhale, lower your hips on the Vajrasana, and back to Dandasana.
- Relax in Staff Pose Hands Back.

BENEFITS

- Powerful knee-strengthening pose.
- Strengthens lower abdominal and pelvic muscles.
- Tones the legs and core, spine and pelvic floor muscles.
- Gives the upper body and the chest the stability to feel breath awareness.
- Aids in bringing mental peace and calm.
- Awakens a deeper consciousness.
- Improves concentration.
- Helps boost energy levels.
- Stabilises mind and body.
- Improves brain function, increasing alertness.
- Seven chakras are balanced with the flow of prana (life force), energising the body-mind and keeping it calm.
- Beneficial to kids, teens, athletes, runners, climbers, or students in active sports.

LIMITATIONS

People with injury to the knees, ankles, lower back, or legs, have undergone any recent abdominal surgery, have weak knees or arthritis or knee pain, high blood pressure, vertigo, dizziness, balancing issues, or nervous ailments like epilepsy, trauma and anxiety, should avoid this.

Initially start with the support of yoga props like a chair or table.

Senior citizens and pregnant women should practise slowly under the guidance of a yoga expert.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

SENGALAM (Tamil, series)

To take revenge, Rayar and his two brothers are on a ruthless killing spree. At the same time, a family ruling Virudhunagar corporation for 40 years is facing turmoil and their throne is being challenged.

Cast: Vani Bhojan, Kalaiyarasan, Mathew Varghese

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

MISSION RANIGANJ (Hindi)

Mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill leads a challenging rescue mission to save 65 miners trapped in a flooded coal mine.

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra

- **Watch on:** Netflix

AATMAPAMPHLET (Marathi)

Ten-year-old Ashish falls in love with his classmate. While he grows up, the country goes through socio-economic changes. Will his love be able to stand the test of time?

Cast: Om Bendkhale, Rajratna Bhojane,

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

VIMANAM (Telugu)

Veerayya, a devoted father, sets out to fulfil his son's dream of flying in an aeroplane upon receiving a piece of devastating news.

Cast: Samuthirakanni, Dhruvan, Meera Jasmine

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

CHHOTOLOK (Bengali, series)

While trying to get out of a failing marriage, Raja gets into a steamy affair with Rupsha, a woman with a criminal past. However, he becomes the prime suspect when Rupsha is found dead. What happens next?

Cast: Lokenath De, Subhrajit Dutta, Jeet Sundor Chakraborty

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

FUKREY 3 (Hindi)

The friends facing disastrously funny situations together and having each other's backs through the trenches to make it out of a new mess this time.

Cast: Pulkit Samrat, Manjot Singh, Pankaj Tripathi, Varun Sharma

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

800 (Tamil)

Following the life of Muthiah Muralidaran, Sri Lanka's 800-wicket cricket champion. The story traces the many facets of Muralidaran's life, from refugee to cricketing legend.

Cast: Madhur Mittal, Mahima Nambiar, Yog Japee

- **Watch on:** Jio Cinema

FOREIGN

ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET (English)

Eleven-year-old Margaret moves to a new town and starts to contemplate everything about life, friendship and adolescence. She relies on her mother, Barbara, who offers support, and her grandmother, Sylvia, who's coming to terms with finding happiness in the next phase of her life. Questions of identity, one's place in the world, and what brings meaning to life soon brings them closer together than ever before.

Cast: Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, Elle Graham

- **Watch on:** Netflix

1670 (Polish, series)

In this satirical comedy, a zany nobleman navigates through family feuds and clashes with peasants in his quest to become Poland's most famous figure.

Cast: Bartlomiej Topa, Katarzyna Herman, Martyna Byczkowska

- **Watch on:** Netflix

LOS FARAD (Spanish, series)

It follows Oskar, who dreams of setting up a gym. He ends up entering the world of the Costa del Sol, all due to the Farads, a family that offers him a future, but with the most unexpected of trades: arms trafficking.

Cast: Miguel Herrán, Susana Abaitua, Pedro Casablanc

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

MY LIFE WITH THE WALTER BOYS (English, series)

When a tragedy disrupts her life, a teenager moves in with her guardian's big family in a small town and learns lessons about love, hope and friendship.

Cast: Nikki Rodriguez, Noah LaLonde, Ashby Gentry

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹999/year
Disney+Hotstar:	₹899/year
Zee5:	₹699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹299/month
Aha:	₹699/year
SonyLIV:	₹299/month

TECH TO TROT

Bengaluru has slowly become one of the most attractive hubs for youngsters wanting to train in equestrian sport in recent years with dozens of academies dotting the city and around, catering to both competitive aspirants and causal learners

DESE GOWDA

ALONG with many societal shifts that it brought, the lockdown also encouraged many to take up new hobbies, and pursue interests that they might have otherwise not done. One such interest that many a Bengalurean seems to have taken a keen interest in is equestrianism. Over the last 3-4 years, the city has seen a surge in demand for equestrian training, from both competitive aspirants and casual learners.

"There's been over 30 per cent more interest for equestrian sport over the last few years. Academies have been cropping up all over the city, while children have much more support from their parents now to pursue horse riding. Since 2018, a number of athletes from the country have done well in international competitions, including at the Asian Games this year. That has inspired people to look beyond the traditional sports like cricket and recognise that there are more sports that their children can excel at," says Silva Storai, director, Embassy International Riding School. "Equestrian sport doesn't have much recognition in India, but the growth recently has been incredibly rewarding to see," she adds.

The quality of training and infrastructure at academies like EIRS – where a 3-month-long individual membership starts at ₹6,000 – is such that athletes from other parts of the country are also flocking to the city to train for national and international dressage competitions. Earlier this year, 17-year-old Shlok Jhunjhunwala, a native of Mumbai, emerged as champion in the young rider category, raking up two individual gold medals and one silver medal at the Junior National Equestrian Championship (JNEC). Jhunjhunwala credits his training in Bengaluru for his triumph at the JNEC.

Similarly, 18-year-old Navya Shree has bagged two junior national medals since relocating to Bengaluru in 2021. "I achieved two gold medals and one silver in the national dressage event earlier this year. Additionally, I clinched the first place nationwide in the FEI dressage and eventing competitions, both international events. My ultimate goal is to pursue eventing and compete in the upcoming Asian Games," she adds.

Meanwhile, the popularity of equestrianism extends beyond the competitive aspects. Stallion's Valley of Lifestyle, with its two campuses on Kanakapura Road and Whitefield, offers an experience with a focus on the spiritual and bonding aspects of the sport. "We initially started our original campus near Hosur. But following the pandemic, there was so much interest from Bengaluru, with people coming all the way from the city, we decided to open a campus on Kanakapura Road," shares Sandeep Menon, founder of the training academy, which charges ₹2,00,000 (approx) for a two-year, three-step course.

From age three to 55+, the academy sees different age groups signing up for lessons. They also work with children on the autism spectrum, providing them with equine therapy. "We operate on a farm environment, so there are lots of other animals and birds on the farm that the riders can interact with as well. We don't focus on competitive aspects, because it can get very expensive very quickly. Instead, we cater to middle-class animal lovers. It helps with confidence building, personal development, attitude, and discipline. All qualities that children can benefit from later in life," Menon adds.

Silva Storai

ACTOR AND BHARATANATYAM DANCER MATANGI PRASAN HAS CHOREOGRAPHED A DANCE-DRAMA, WHICH IS A PARODY OF GODS ATTENDING SCHOOL

CLASS APART

MONIKA MONALISA

IMAGINE Goddess Saraswati as a little girl who is a first bencher and gold medalist. But she's also a scaredy cat! Lakshmi is very good with Math but she's so talkative, the teachers are tired of her. The very little Vishnu is a prankster, Parvati is a rule breaker and Shiva is an introvert. These gods now have to learn how to create and sustain the human race. And it's not an easy job!

Swargade Shaale: When the gods go to school, will show all the popular Hindu gods in a never-before-seen avatar. Choreographed by Bharatanatyam dancer and actor Matangi Prasan, the dance-drama will be performed by her young students. Prasan recalls a simple question of 'what if?' turned out to be the inception of the play.

"When I was learning Bharatanatyam, I didn't have any space to question at all. So I think I had the freedom to experiment when I became a teacher. Now, I have been experimenting with children in Bharatanatyam. For example, the goddess Lakshmi was born a teenager. We don't know much about their childhood," says Prasan, adding that she wanted to create content for children in Bharatanatyam.

Matangi Prasan (in green) along with her students rehearsing for the show

Prasan mentions that in her previous choreography, she had shown different science experiments like photosynthesis and magnetism through Bharatanatyam. "This time, I wanted to keep it related to our Purana. I thought, 'What if these gods are kids?' I experimented with my students and asked them to imagine if they could sketch the main story," says Prasan.

The task was not as easy as it sounds. "Some children had already imagined goddesses with sarees. It was difficult for me to bring them out of the whole thing and tell them they can also wear normal clothes," says Prasan with a laugh. She further adds, "Some children are very creative... I also realised school is such an important part of our children. They need to be represented on stage."

Prasan points out the other creative challenges, including coming up with the storyline of this 90-minute play. "Yes, the gods are children but I cannot make them completely human. They need to have a divine element in them. Also, I have always felt that all goddesses are perfect. I wanted to sort of challenge that," explains Prasan.

(Swargade Shaale will be performed at ADA Rangamandira, JC Road on Dec 22 at 6pm)

CITY READ

Jewellery exhibition held over the weekend

Asia Jewels Show 2023 - Fine Jewellery Exhibition & Sale hosted its 49th edition at Shangri-La Bengaluru, Palace Road from December 16 to December 18. The showcase included designs from handpicked jewellers from across India with the latest collections from fine gold jewellery, diamond jewellery, platinum jewellery, traditional jewellery, and more.

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner will receive a set menu for 2 worth ₹2,000 from Amiel Gourmet **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Kulkuls 2. Eggnog 3. Lutefisk Soup

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Surya S 2. Lathika M 3. Rupa

A RED SEED AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN

ON a quiet afternoon, I dropped in at a craft exhibition. When I mentioned my interest in games to the artisans from Rajasthan, one of them said the game played with the bright red *chirmi* seeds. *Chirmi* is known in the south as *gundumani* or *manjadi*. They are two distinct seeds but are used interchangeably. While one is round and has a black eye, the other is oval and fully red. The artisan told me of a game they played with these seeds. Everyone would bring a few red seeds with them and bury it in a heap of sand. Each player would have an allotted time to find as many seeds as possible. The player with the most seeds would be the winner. I could imagine the glee of collecting these jewel-like seeds. I was reminded of another game which I used to play as a child at the beach. One person would bury something in sand and the others would have to guess its location. Sometimes, a ten paisa coin would be buried, and the winner would enjoy an ice cream treat!

VINITA SIDHARTHA
vinita@kreedagmes.com

The writer is an author and the founder of Kreeda, an organisation reviving traditional games

This links to an interesting legend from the *Ramayana*. The story goes that when Sita was kidnapped, she threw her jewels out of the chariot to leave clues for Rama and Lakshmana. When some of the earrings were brought to Lakshmana, he was puzzled and said he could not recognise them as he had barely seen Sita's face. This was considered a mark of respect. However, when a ring of Sita's was shown to Lakshmana, he recognised it and recounted the fact that he had seen Rama and Sita play with it by burying it in sand on the riverbank. I enjoyed the image of the couple playing a game that is played to this day.

It is also fascinating to explore simple games that were fashioned by our ancestors with things around them — red seeds and sand. But, India is not the only country to have games such as this. These games are elemental and rooted in basic human responses to stimuli. Often, we find similar games across the world. Did they spring up independently in different countries? Did they travel along ancient trade routes? We may never know, but every culture has its games. There is another story about these red seeds, but for that you must wait for my next column.

(The writers' views are their own)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SARITHA KATARI, aged about 42 years, residing at No.507, 9th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560085, have changed my name to **SARITHA.M** vide Affidavit dated 16.12.2023 sworn before advocate and notary H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KEERTHI MANYAM, aged about 21 years, residing at No.507, 9th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560085, have changed my name to **KEERTHI.V.M** vide Affidavit dated 16.12.2023 sworn before advocate and notary H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

NAME DECLARATION
I, **NAMDEV BAPU SURYAWANSHI**, aged about 54 years, S/o Bapu Babu Suryawanshi, R/at Flat No.402, Zest Block-4, Suncity Apartment, Sarjapura Road, Iblur, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560102, My son's Original and Correct name is **"PRATYUSH NAMDEV SURYAWANSHI"** in Aadhaar card & 10th Std Marks card is mentioned as **"PRATYUSH NAMDEV SURYAWANSHI"** and My Son's birth Certificate name mentioned as **"PRATYUSH"** and above mentioned both names belongs to one and the same person, Vide Affidavit dated:**15/12/2023** Sworn to before **B. M. Chandrashekar** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **H K NARAYANA SWAMY** S/o **Kenchappa**, aged about 61 Years R/at Hunachur, B K Halli Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru- 562149, have changed my name to **H K NARAYANSWAMI** vide affidavit dated: 15/12/2023 Before Notary **A.Narayanaswamy** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PHOOLMALA DUBEY** spouse of Ramesh Chandra Dubey, residing at No.319/61 HQTC Campus Air Force, J C Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560006, have changed my name from **MALA DUBEY** to **PHOOLMALA DUBEY** vide Affidavit No.IN-KA71879325743372V dated 16.12.2023 before Notary Leela Bangalore-560053.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAMATHA SHIVA**, residing at Kumaraswamy Layout, Pavagada, Tumakuru District 562102, today camping at Bengaluru, have changed my name from **MAMATHA SHIVA** to **MAMATHA GOVINDU** vide Affidavit Dated: 16/12/2023, before Notary **MEER HASSAN**, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BALASUBRAMANIAN VENKATA RAMANAN**, S/o K. Balasubramanian, age 48 years, R/at No. G301, Springfields Apartments, Ambalipura, Sarjapura Main Road, Ambalipura, Bengaluru-560 102 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **TANYA RAMANAN APARNA** to **TANYA RAMANAN**, henceforth she shall be known and called as **TANYA RAMANAN** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16th Dec. 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **BHAGYA KUMARI N.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMAN**, aged about 33 years, daughter of Mr. Shambu Shankar and wife of Mr. Rahul Kumar residing at F 344, Nandana Royal Apartment, Hilalige Road, Amulya Royale Layout, Beside Concorde South Escape, Electronic City Phase 2, Kammasandra, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560100, have changed my name from **Suman** to **Suman Choudhary**, vide affidavit dated 15/12/2023 sworn to before B.M.Chandrashekar advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SURAJ P JOIS (New Name), S/o B. S. Panduranga Jois, residing at No. 55, Manikanta Nilaya, 1st Main, 12th Cross, Srinidhi Layout, Konanakunte, Bangalore-560062, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from SURAJ P (Old Name) to SURAJ P JOIS (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called SURAJ P JOIS (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 15/12/2023, before Notary H.S.DHARMA PRASAD, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **LALITHARASHMI YERMUNJA**, aged about 26 years, D/o Sri. Y. Vishweshwarayya and Smt. Veena Shankari, resident of at No.67, 1st 'D' Cross, Remco Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, do hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name from **LALITHARASHMI.Y** to **LALITHARASHMI YERMUNJA**, vide affidavit dated 16.12.2023 sworn to before Advocate and Notary **H S Sakalesh Aradhya**, Bengaluru.

NAME DECLARATION
I, **PARVATHI.V** w/o late S.VENKATARAJU (also referred as Sagiraju Venkataraju), 67 years, No. 203/241, 4th Main, 11th Cross, Near Brigade Gate Way, Milk Colony, Bangalore–560055 state that my name is incorrectly and differently mentioned in my ID Cards, hence I declare that my correct name is **"PARVATHI.V"** vide Affidavit Dated 15-12-2023 sworn to before **H.H. NAGARAJ**, Notary Public, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANNAMMA** W/o Late. **Rajappa**, R/at R.V Enterprises R/o Dombaranahalli At Post Dandinashivara Hobli, Turvekere Taluk, Tumkur District-572220 in some records my name is wrongly mentioned as **THAYAMMA** instead of **SANNAMMA** and my date of birth is mentioned as 01/01/1962 instead of 01/01/1952 I Shall be Called as **SANNAMMA** and my actual date of birth is **01.01.1952** vide affidavit dated: 15/12/2023 Before Notary **K.C.Gowthami** Bengaluru.

NAME DECLARATION
I, **PATEL RACHIT**, aged about 32 years, S/o Chandrakant Babulal Patel, R/at A-501, Bren Paddington, Off Sarjapura Road, Behind Mother Hood Hospital, Kaikonadrahalli Bangalore - 560035.
My Original and Correct name is **"PATEL RACHIT,"** in my all Documents my name mentioned as **"PATEL RACHIT,"** and My Passport is my name mentioned as **"PATEL RACHITKUMAR CHANDRAKANT** and above mentioned both names belongs to me & one and the same person, Vide Affidavit dated:**16/12/2023** Sworn to before **Ganesh Gowda**, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPAK CHAVAN,** S/o Manohar, age 41 years, R/at Vill: Nidasoshi, Taluk: Hukkeri, Dist: Belgaum, State: Karnataka-591236, today at Bengaluru do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPAK MANOHAR CHAVAN @ DEEPAK M CHAVAN @ DIPAK CHAVHAN** to **DEEPAK CHAVAN**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **DEEPAK CHAVAN** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16th Dec. 2023, sworn before Advocate and notary **MEER HASSAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A KRISHNA MURTHY** S/O KARIDASAPPA, aged about 48 years, residing at Door # 30, SriNilaya, Behind Radha Krishna, Bylappana palya, Madavara, Bangalore Rural, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA-562123, have changed my name from **KRISHNA MURTHY** to **A KRISHNA MURTHY (AGALAVADI KRISHNA MURTHY).**, vide affidavit dated 12/12/2023 sworn to before K.Venkateshan advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Napoleon Chandragupta Manjunath @ Manjunath A.C,** S/o. Chikkahuchhaiah P., aged about 31 years, residing at No. 11-12, 3rd Floor, SF-3, 7th Cross, Muneshwara Nagara, Hosakerehalli, Kerekodi, Bangalore-560085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Manjunath A.C.** to **Napoleon Chandragupta Manjunath**, hereinafter I shall be known and called as **Napoleon Chandragupta Manjunath** for all purpose, vide affidavit dated 04.12.2023, sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We **Sri. Y. VISHWESHWARAYYA**, aged about 59 years, son of Late. Subramanya Bhat Yermunja, AND **Smt. VEENA SHANKARI**, aged about 53 years, W/o Sri. Y. Vishweshwarayya, both residing at No.67, 1st 'D' Cross, Remco Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, Karnataka, India, do hereby solemnly declare that we have changed our minor daughter's name from **ANISHA.Y** to **ANISHA YERMUNJA**, vide affidavit dated 16.12.2023 sworn to before Advocate and Notary **H S Sakalesh Aradhya**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATESWARA NAIDU, aged about 50 years, residing at No.507, 9th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560085, have changed my name to VENKATESH.M** vide Affidavit dated 16.12.2023 sworn before advocate and notary H.S. Dharma Prasad, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) LAD KOUR** M/o JC414155N, Sub, DALIP SINGH RATHORE, residing at No.Adm BN. PRTC, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore – 560006, have Changed my name from **(OLD NAME) LAD KOUR** to **(NEW NAME) LAD KANWAR** Vide Affidavit dated 15.12.2023, sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **M.C. SAVITHA**, W/o S.K. Devaraj, aged about 45 years, Previously residing at No.15/1, 2nd Cross, Harijana Colony, Near Anjaneya temple, Ganganagar, Bengaluru - 560032, Presently residing at No.59/2, 6th Main, 8th Cross, Pillappa Block, Gangaagar, Bengaluru - 560032, In Bank details having the name **ANASUYA M.C**, whereas in Pancard, Aadhaar Card, Voter ID and Ration Card mentioned as **M.C Savitha.** And both names **ANASUYA .M.C & M.C SAVITHA** refers to one and the same person. Vide affidavit dated 28-11-2023 Sworn before notory Sivakumara .M.N, Advocate.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHD FAIZULLA KHAN K** (old Name), S/o MOHAMED KHALEELULLA KHAN, (MD. KHALEELULLA KHAN) residing at No. 36, KHANS ASHIANA, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road, Pillanna Garden, 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 084 Karnataka, have changed my old name **MOHD FAIZULLA KHAN .K** to NEW NAME **"MOHAMED FAIZULLA KHAN KHALEEL"**, vide affidavit dated 15-12-2023, before Notary **SIVAKUMARA M.N,** Bangalore Metropolitan Area, for all official and Legal purposes and particularly for Passport.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VASESHT RAMANAN**, S/o Balasubramanian Venkata Ramanan, age 19 years, R/at No. G301, Springfields Apartments, Ambalipura, Sarjapura Main Road, Ambalipura, Bengaluru-560 102 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VASESHT RAMANAN APARNA** to **VASESHT RAMANAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VASESHT RAMANAN** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16th Dec. 2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **BHAGYA KUMARI N.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Akhil Anil Gupta, aged about 36 years, S/o Mr. Anil Gurcharanlal Gupta, R/at No. 303, Green Field Apartment, Gulmohar Enclave, Near Golkonda Restaurant, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru-560 037, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from '**AKHIL ANIL GUPTA**' to '**AKHIL GUPTA**'. Vide affidavit dated 16.12.2023, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Indira S.S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMANULLA KHAN,** resident of No. 33/18, 4th Cross, 9th A Main, B.T.M. 1st Stage, Bangalore-560029, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ISMAIL KHAN** also known as **AMANULLA KHAN** to **AMANULLA KHAN**, vide affidavit dated 16.12.2023, sworn to before B. Chitra, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ORUGANTI LAVANYA** W/o Oruganti Devaraju, R/at No.8, Nisarga Nilaya, Navya Nagar, Kempegowda Circle, Jakkur Bengaluru-560064, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KANDIKONDA SARASWATHI** to **ORUGANTI LAVANYA** vide affidavit dated 21.11.2023 sworn to before Notary **H. Sridhar Rao.**

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Behind the Scenes of Kaatera

A SHARADHAA

THE trailer for Darshan's next, *Kaatera,* was launched on December 16, in an event attended by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Director Tharun Kishore Sudhir, who had revealed that *Kaatera* is inspired by a real-life incident, and will showcase the essence of the mid-1970s era through the dialogues, artwork, music, and overall presentation.

Darshan plays the titular character, a blacksmith who leads a rebellion against oppressors in rural Karnataka. This role presents Darshan, known as a mass hero, in a different light, shedding his superstar persona. The trailer, which is raw, and rustic, woven with a rooted tale, promises a compelling narrative on the agrarian crisis, blending a commercial approach with significant mass appeal and substance, ensuring a mix of instense action and memorable moments.

We interviewed Team *Kaatera* —the story and screenplay co-writer Jadeshaa K Hampi, dialogue writer Maasthi Upparahalli, art director Guna, and editor K M Prakash — who shared insights into their contributions to the making of Kaatera, which is bankrolled by Rockline Venkatesh.

Kaatera is not just a film; it could also become a novel: **Jadeshaa K Hampi**

JADESHAA K Hampi, known for directing films like *Gentleman* and the recent *Guru Shishyaru*, is also a writer. He has now collaboarted with Tharun Kishore Sudhir on the story and screenplay of *Kaatera*. Jadeshaa reveals that the idea for *Kaatera* originated during the Covid period while making *Guru Shishyaru*. "During a discussion with Tharun, I shared a few points, some from stories my great grandmother told me, revealing the essence of a culture of a certain era. We merged this element with the system prevalent in 1974, creating the foundation for *Kaatera*,' Jadeshaa shares.

Jadeshaa explains that Tharun believed the story needed to be written before approaching any actor. "*Kaatera* combines mass appeal with substance, and Darshan was the perfect fit. We needed a larger-than-life actor. His endorsement adds weight to the story. Fortunately, Darshan agreed to star in *Kaatera*, which is a blessing,' he says.

Jadeshaa, who based the film on a real-life incident, credits his writing to his habit of reading. "Reading is crucial in building a story's foundation. For *Kaatera,* I delved into 40 books. Kaatera is not just a film; it could also become a novel,' he suggests.

As a director and writer, Jadeshaa merged his vision with Tharun's thoughts. "Wordplay is my strength while Tharun excels in bringing out heroism and infusing mass appeal. This is a completely original film, and it's a collaborative effort."

Newspaper cuttings of that period helped me pen dialogues for the film: **Maasthi**

MAASTHI, the dialogue writer behind movies like Kaddipudi, Tagaru, and Salaga, is teaming up with Darshan for the first time in *Kaatera*. "Tharun, the director of *Kaatera*, backed Jadeshaa's *Guru Shishayaru*. I had written the dialogue for that film too. That is how I got connected with Tharun," he says.

Maasthi reveals that writing dialogues for Kaatera was challenging because it's set in the 1970s, an era unfamiliar to him. "To capture that essence, I extensively researched articles from that time, spending months crafting every line to fit the rural backdrop."

Praising Tharun as an excellent director who understands what suits the film best, Maasthi says, "From the 1970s to now, there's been a significant shift. Back then, technology wasn't prevalent, and everything relied on written documents. Even love letters were handwritten. So, I tailored my dialogues accordingly, ensuring they resonated with the village setting. Normally, I finish writing dialogues for a movie within a month and a half, but for *Kaatera*, it took me five months. Each dialogue had to synchronise with the story and the era, and the lines had to revolve around a star like Darshan."

Interestingly, Maasthi notes that *Kaatera* didn't have the typical chance for elevation dialogues. "We had to align with the character's arc. In this case, it's about a farmer portrayed by Darshan. Hence, the lines centered on the protagonist as a farmer. Heroism, in this context, isn't just about the actor speaking the lines but about Darshan embodying *Kaatera*," he says. Maasthi asserts, "Every line in the script is precious. Like fights enhance a film, dialogues bring in those moments for the audience to cheer. Tharun had a vision for this, and it was his concept to construct scenes that allowed the dialogue to shine. In essence, the dialogues will bring out the excitement, creating scenes that will resonate and amplify the movie experience."

Editing isn't just about timing; it's about storytelling: **K M Prakash**

K M Prakash, an experienced editor who has worked on around 300 films, considers each movie a unique challenge. Whether it's a star vehicle or a regular hero-centric film, editing always revolves around content. According to Prakash, transitioning to *Kaatera* meant emphasising screenplay and content, a shift he deems essential to guide the audience seamlessly through the lines, scenes, and characters within a single frame.

"It took me about 6 months to edit a film like Kaatera," Prakash reveals. "It's a cult film set in the 1970s. I couldn't rely on today's editing trends; I had to adapt to techniques suited for that era, like using smoke cuts. The director's meticulous planning facilitated a smooth editing process," he adds.

Having watched films like *Bootayyana Maga Ayyu* and *Bangarada Manushya* and being from a village himself, Prakash could easily connect with the ambience and culture of that time.

While digital technology allows for unlimited shooting unlike the constraints with film reels, Prakash believes it is not the film's duration but its intent in effectively conveying the story that matters the most. "Editing isn't just about timing; it's about storytelling. Sometimes audiences might perceive certain parts as slow, so we watch the film at least 20 times before finalising the final cut. However, the ultimate decision lies with the audience," he explains.

Prakash feels fortunate to have complete freedom from the director while working in *Kaatera*. "Tharun collaborates closely with editors and technicians right from the scripting stage. This approach enhances the understanding of the story during editing. Having worked with Darshan on various projects, including *Saarathi, Brindavana, Tarak*, and *Roberrt*, *Kaatera* stands out as one of the biggest. I believe it will earn him, and all of us, a strong reputation," he concludes.

Understanding the culture and lifestyle of the 70s was crucial: **Guna**

ART director Guna, known for works like *Romeo, Rana Vikrama, Natasarvabhowma*, and *Monsoon Raaga*, mentions facing unique challenges in his 11th film, *Kaatera*. "When working on a film based on a real-life incident, it involves extensive research; you can't approach it blindly," he explains. "Understanding the culture and lifestyle of the 70s was crucial. While we couldn't be entirely authentic, we aimed to come as close as possible, albeit with some cinematic liberties. Our goal is to transport the audience back to that period."

Guna highlights that the film is set in an underprivileged village, and aligns with the director's vision. "95 per cent of the film was shot on sets with around 16 sets constructed in Bengaluru and a couple in Hyderabad. Creating a village backdrop required us to integrate nature into the setting. The undulating land at specific locations, such as the one near Ravi Shankar Ashram, significantly assisted in authentically depicting the village. Every detail had to be altered to fit that era," says Guna.

"To achieve authenticity, we incorporated trees like Hibiscus, popular during that time, and included old trees aged around 60 years. In those days, having trees in front of houses was common, so we ensured that aspect was accurately portrayed. We designed a community with rows of houses, 5 to 6 streets, a temple, connecting everything to create an 8-acre village. We replicated a similar village setup on another piece of land." *Kaatera* demanded extensive planning and work. "Creating something perfect, especially in harmony with nature, poses a challenge. Around 120 individuals were involved in the making of *Kaatera*, contributing to its intricate details and authenticity," he says.

Sriimruali's next with debutant Halesh titled *Paraak*

WHILE Sriimurali's *Bagheera* teaser was released on his birthday, an official announcement about the actor's next project was also made on the occasion. Sriimurali is set to collaborate with first-time filmmaker Halesh Kogundi, and the project has been titled *Paraak*.

The makers unveiled an interesting poster depicting the actor with wings, portraying two facets of the character, symbolizing both an angel and a demon. Speaking to *CE,* Halesh revealed that the film would be a solid action suspense entertainer.

Engineer-turned-filmmaker Halesh has previously directed short films, two music videos, and Savasa with Shruthi Prakash. "We, a group of engineers from Davangere, are realising our dreams by making a film," says Halesh.

Backed by Brand Corporate Production Private Ltd, the film is currently in the preparation work, and the cast and crew will be finalised before filming in May 2024. "As a newcomer, I appreciate Halesh's thought process. There's a spark in him, and I am confident he will do a good job," says Sriimurali, adding, "I will have more details to reveal once I start working on the project."

Halesh and Sriimurali

Makers of *Just Pass* aim for January release

CE FEATURES

SHRI Mahadev's next film, *Just Pass,* directed by KM Raghunath, is gearing up for release, and the makers recently unveiled the film's teaser. Shri Mahadev, known for his roles in numerous television serials, recently transitioned to the big screen appearing in films like *Iruvudellava Bittu* and *Gajanana & Gang*. Now, the actor gears up for his next venture, Just Pass.

Produced by KV Shashidhar under the Rays Entertainment banner, Just Pass features Rangayana Raghu playing a principal for the first time. "This is a college for high-scoring students, and the story begins with students who have just passed. This movie depicts what happens in such a college. Most of the filming takes place on the college campus," says director Raghunath.

The film, starring Pranathi as the female lead, also features Govinde Gowda in a pivotal role. *Just Pass* features music by Harshavardhan Raj and cinematography by Sujay Kumar.

A still from the film

Shri and Pranathi